January/February 1997

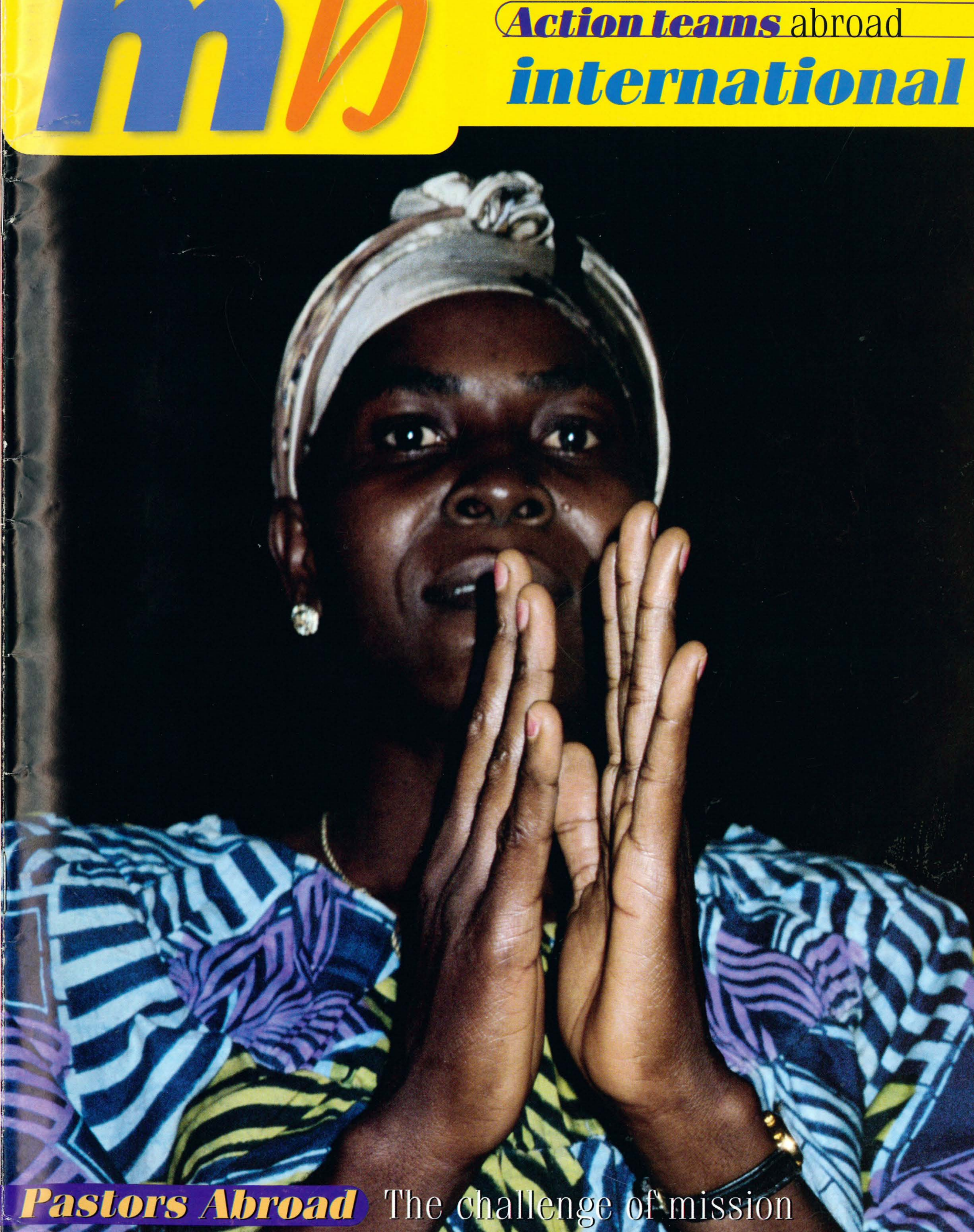
mb

News around the world

Focus on Tirana

Action teams abroad

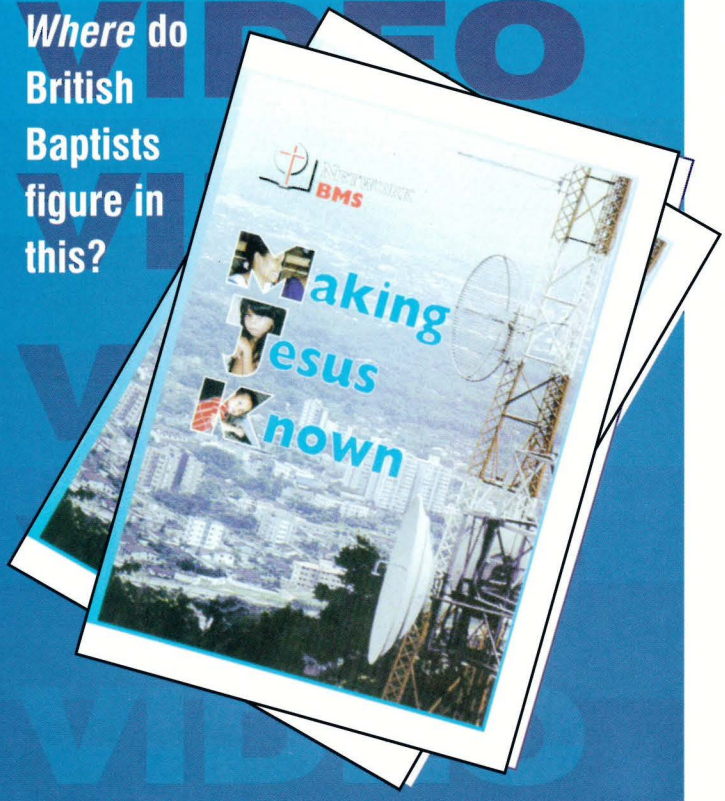
international



Pastors Abroad The challenge of mission

Making Jesus Known

What **is God saying to the BMS?**
Where **is God leading?**
Where **do British Baptists figure in this?**



Half the world has never heard the good news of Jesus Christ. The challenge of the 21st Century to BMS is to make Jesus known where he isn't - to share the gospel with the unreached. This video unpacks the vision for the future - an exciting challenge in boldness and faith, a vital mission of love and compassion, an essential commitment for every Christian.

Six programmes with free study guide

only £9.95

A World of ...

Prayer Support for Mission

Informed prayer is vital to encouraging and sustaining mission personnel who have answered God's call to cross-cultural mission. You can play a major part in this - and you can do this more effectively with **WORLDWIDE, the BMS's monthly prayer programme - an audio tape cassette** recorded in the BMS studio. It's had a facelift for 1997 - more information, more news, plus up to date interviews from the cutting edge of mission. **Listen to it at home, in the car, on your personal stereo - or use it in your housegroup or prayer partnership.**

All it costs you is a postage stamp every month. The subscription to **WORLDWIDE is FREE.**

WORLDWIDE

BMS has plenty of resources to promote mission in your church. See the new catalogue - out later in January.

Telephone Christine Neilson (01235) 512077 for your copy

ISSUE - MISSION

RECEIVED
07 -01- 1997

Baptist Theological Seminary Library
Prague
Czech Republic

contents

RICHARD WELLS

So Steve Chalke's changed our name! He can't do that without permission. But he has.
What do I tell the BMS President? Worse still, what do I tell my mum? She'll never understand. She'll think it's one of these take-overs – or else she'll think I've got another job.

I can just hear her: "Changed your job again? You can't stick at one for five minutes, can you? Stability, that's what you need, son."

"But it's Steve Chalke, mum, he didn't really mean it in November's *mh*. It was only a metaphor – a figure of speech. He used it to make a point – (I hope she understands) – you know, tongue-in-cheek."

"What's a bit of a cheek, son? Changing your job without telling me?"

"It's not my job that's changed – well it has, but that'll only confuse you. It's not changing its name – the society, I mean."

"The building society? Next you'll be telling me they're floating it on the Stock Exchange."

"No the Baptist Missionary Society. We're not floating, we're not changing our name, we're not... I mean, if we were really thinking of changing the name we wouldn't do it without an official notice, without telling the President, or the ministers, or General Committee, or the Baptist Times – or you!"

I figure we'd have to tell my mum – I might never get another piece of her Yum Yum Cake again.

Perish the thought.

After all that, welcome to the new-look *mh*. with your free BMS Prayer Guide. You'll receive a new prayer guide in May and September.

In this issue of *mh*. we focus on the topic of mission, bring you a new series written by church leaders who have been inspired by tours in overseas mission locations, a new series called Our Town examining the places where BMS colleagues are located, and for 1997 BMS columnist John Passmore is joined by Owen Clark, that veteran of mission who has a way with words!

4 **COMING HOME**
What does 'for life' mean?
Susan Chalmers reflects

6 **HIT & RUN**
Havoc or harvest?
Agne & Elvie Blomvik tell their story

8 **HOME & AWAY**
Absent but not forgotten
Pat Dunning tells her vision for mission

10 **TALKING WITH PARTNERS**
On the receiving end
A Brazilian pastor speaks out

FEATURES

12 **BMS NEWS**
14 **WORLD NEWS**
16 **WORLD MISSION LINK**

NEWS

18 **CENTRE SPREAD**
Global mission schooling

20 **OUR TOWN**
NEW SERIES Tirana, Albania

26 **PASTORS ABROAD**
NEW SERIES David Morris visits Brazil

28 **TAKE TWO**
Mission file of facts, figures and background

30 **ACTION TEAMS**
They're out at the sharp end

32 **MISSIONARY DIGEST**
Prayer points to support BMS colleagues

35 **JOHN PASSMORE**
The last word

REGULARS

COVER IMAGE
WORSHIPPER AT UPOTO CHURCH, ZAIRE
PHOTO: PHIL HINDLE

CREDITS

General Director Alistair Brown

Managing Editor Richard Wells
Regular Contributors Alistair Brown, Owen Clark, Sam Gibson, Jan Kendall, John Passmore, Richard Wells.

Design Editor Anthony Viney
Art Editor Sarah Prentice

Production Editor Jan Kendall

Director for Missionaries Sian Williams (for enquiries about service)

Printed by Alden Colour Didcot, Oxfordshire

Subscription for 1997 *mh* and BMS Prayer Guide are published as a complate package. £6.00 through church *mh* distributors £7.98 by direct mail (inc p&p). Six issues of *mh* with three of BMS Prayer Guide plus free Annual Review. Overseas p&p at the rate applicable.

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the BMS

© Copyright 1997
Baptist Missionary Society

Missionary Herald the magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society

Address: PO Box 49, 129 Broadway Didcot Oxon OX11 8XA
Telephone: 01235 512077
Fax: 01235 511265
E-Mail, Editorial: bms_media@cin.co.uk
E-Mail, Other departments: 100626.1577@compuserve.com

Registered charity number 233782

NEXT ISSUE MARCH-APRIL
Leadership
What makes a good leader?
Does leadership come to an end?

Why they're coming

WHERE ARE ALL THE LONG-TERM MISSION PERSONNEL? **SUSAN CHALMERS** SAYS THE ANSWER IS IN OUR SHORT-TERM SOCIETY

Some people analyse how long missionaries stay overseas and the reasons why they come home for good. It's their job. It's not just a pen pushing exercise; there's a real concern that fewer people are offering for long-term service and even fewer actually serving long-term.

For the first two-thirds of this century, when a person felt the call to mission, it was expected that this would be a long-term commitment. For many people it was a life-time commitment. Studies have shown, however, there is a consistent trend towards a lower average length of service and an increase in those who have served a mission society for five years or less.

Does this mean that Christians are less committed to mission today than they were 50 years ago?

Are fewer missionaries needed today?

Is more work being done by national Christians?

Are missionaries less able or less willing to continue in difficult circumstances?

There are no easy answers. The world has changed almost beyond recognition since World War II. Television and ease of travel mean that the world has shrunk to fit our living rooms. We speak to people who have visited Outer Mongolia and the jungles of Africa and South America.

It is true also that missionaries do not stand apart from their culture. My father began work in the 1920s with one organisation and retired from the same organisation in the 1970s. Most people stayed in the one job or with one organisation for their entire working life.

Today, the way to advance is by changing employer. It is expected that someone will consider moving after five or six years, if not sooner. Major career changes are quite common and many people will make at least one such move in their life. Career development, financial considerations, social advancement, pension prospects, job security are all important factors. Christians will often have a different agenda from others but it is not always possible to run totally counter to all social and cultural trends.

Short term overseas experience and gap years are popular with young people. Missions which offer these types of opportunities have a steady flow of applicants. Commitment for a year or two is the upper limit in most people's thinking.

In some situations short-term workers can be a real bonus and can make a really valid contribution to the work of the church and of mission. In others the "hit and run" approach does little good; it only leaves damage and the long-term worker has to pick up the pieces. In many situations the need is for steady ongoing work which will break up hard ground, sowing seed over many years in the hope of a harvest.

In 1995 I asked a group of former cross-cultural missionaries why they had returned to the UK. This group had worked for various missionary societies in a wide variety of locations. The most common reasons given for returning home were:

- Health.
- Children, their education, health and adjustment.
- Elderly parent or relative in need of care.
- Move to other work.
- Completion of work.

Only 12 per cent of the group gave a single reason for their return. More than 25 per cent gave two reasons and another 25 per cent gave five or more reasons.

Society has changed and with it

Today: National Christians are partners in the work of the gospel

home so soon

Former days: "Going" on mission was a life-long commitment

people's expectations. Short-term commitments are common, like short-term contracts. In a rapidly changing world five years can seem a very long time.

Missions may dislike the changes but must accept the reality. Education by mission societies is important, but mission candidates are the product of their culture. A large part of the culture of a Christian is the church.

The key to commitment and to perseverance is the training and discipling of young Christians in the local church. Many younger people who now offer for overseas service do not come from a Christian or church background. They come out of the secular "instant" society.

If it's commitment and endurance we're looking for, then these qualities need to be demonstrated in the lives of mature Christians and church leaders. Only then is there any real hope in reversing the trend. ●

Susan Chalmers was a BMS missionary in Zaire (1982 to 1992) and now works for Action Partners, an interdenominational missionary society, based in Doncaster.

Hit and run mission

Visiting teams: How do you measure their effect?

Our first "hit and run mission" was in 1988. A choir from Sweden came for a weekend and sang in the streets and performed in an open air theatre, and we also organised a gospel concert in a hall.

We were three years into church planting and there were about 10 people in the church. This was a big event for us. For the new French Christians it was stimulating to meet a big group of young Christians from another country.

A year later we had an Operation Mobilisation team from Sweden, England and France for two weeks in the summer. We did some singing in the streets, showed films and invited people to have a cup of coffee and chat afterwards.

By then the church had been growing a little and some of our young people took part.

Although we prayed with some who wanted to make a decision for Christ, we

VISITING TEAMS TO RUN MISSIONS MAY NOT ACHIEVE INSTANT GROWTH BUT **AGNE AND ELVIE BLOMVIC** FOUND THAT THEY HAVE ENCOURAGED THE CHURCH AND FORMED AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

did not see direct results, like people coming to the church. Afterwards, we lost sight of almost everyone.

But it was a very stimulating experience, especially for the young people in the church, to realise people's spiritual needs. It also gave them an opportunity to be visible in town, demonstrating that they were not ashamed of the gospel.

It was not until May 1994 that we had another opportunity to organise a mission, partly as a result of a visit by a couple in our church to friends in Christchurch Baptist Church, Dorset, sharing the needs in France, and partly as a result of a visit from a student from Moorland's Bible College, preparing for missionary service in France.

These contacts resulted in a week-long joint mission between the college and Christchurch Baptist Church. People from Christchurch came for almost the whole week, and some others for the weekend, joining five young people from our church and nine students from Moorlands. We reached out through children's work and street activities like singing, sketchboard, mimes and preaching, and we also showed the Jesus film.

As in 1989 we did not see much direct fruit in terms of people converted and added to the church but we did notice an increased interest when working in the street. People were accepting of us and listened and talked with us. We prayed with eight people for salvation, but none of them came to church!

Since then we have stayed in contact with Christchurch Baptist Church and exchange visits have been organised.

Another link, this time with two churches in the Bristol area, came through one of the Moorlands student who took part in the mission, and who is also preparing for missionary service with his family in France. They also established a contact between our church and his home church.

This was to lead to a more sustained effort. Over the first eight months last year, these churches sent teams and leaders for weekends and twice for a whole week.

The first weekend, in January, was dedicated to prayer for the Cherbourg area. On the second, in February, we covered the suburb town where our church is located with Christian tracts. People were motivated to take part – even some elderly people participated, doing as much as they could in distribution and supporting the rest of the team in prayer.

Yet there was still an absence of immediate or direct fruit – nothing apparently to show for these "hit and run" missions.

Encouraged by this support, we decided to try to reach out to Valognes, a town south of Cherbourg. In April, a mission week included street activities, tract distribution and the showing of the Jesus film.

In June, another small town nearby received the same tracts, and in August, a new week mission was arranged with gospel evenings in the suburbs around, and the Jesus film was shown again in central Cherbourg. Tracts were again distributed in Valognes and we were able to put a book stand on the market places in two other towns.

Yet there was still an absence of immediate or direct fruit – nothing apparently to show for these "hit and run" missions.

Despite this, the church is encouraged. The members have been inspired by special event evangelism, considering that it is as necessary to sow the seed widely as it is to plant the gospel in people by personal witnessing, though the fruit that will come from this may not be measured the way we would like to do.

In May, another mission is planned with Moorlands, Christchurch Baptist Church and New Life Church in New Milton, reaching out through a Christian Film Festival and open air activities to Cherbourg and neighbouring towns.

Nine years on, what began as "hit and run" missions has developed into a strong partnership, allowing British and French Christians to work together to share the gospel.

It is quite encouraging to notice that several other Baptist churches in Normandy and Brittany have received help from England and Jersey. Such missions, if planned together with the local churches and with an understanding of the spiritual and cultural situation in France, can become a real blessing.

Through this help, we have been able to reach out and become a missionary church in our region. ●

Agne and Elvie Blomvik, Swedish missionaries now in their forties, have been working since 1985 in Cherbourg, with a population of 100,000, planting churches with the French Baptist Federation

THEY MAY BE FAR AWAY BUT THEY'RE CLOSE TO THE HEART. **PAT DUNNING** TELLS ***mh***. HOW THEIR VISION FOR MISSION WORKS OUT

Home & away

"Greetings from the Home Team!"So begins a monthly letter to those Godalming Baptist Church have sent in full time service. There is a long tradition of supporting missionaries and ministry students in this Surrey fellowship. In the early 1990s they were helping to support at least 13 people around the world and at one time had a representative on every continent.

Individual missionaries they may be but to Godalming, they're the Away Team – Steve and Elizabeth serving with BMS, Jonathan and Linda and Eddie and Daphne with WEC International, Tony and Nan are Interserve Partners, Jeanne lives in Chiapas, Mexico, where she and her husband worked for over 30 years, and Ross manages a Christian Outdoor Sailing Centre in Essex.

Over the years many young people have gone for short term service and several with the BMS 28:19 Action Teams.

In 1995, following a visit from Stanley Davies, of the Evangelical Missionary Alliance, the church produced a written mission statement, which is now church policy, but as they wrote it, they were conscious of committing to paper what was already happening. They also established guidelines to leaders and those who felt called to full-time service.

At the hub of it all is the World Mission Action Group, chaired by one of the church leadership team and comprising minister Martin Poole, a secretary/co-ordinator, a mission treasurer, and others who have specific roles like caring, publicity, youth, and two who have had mission work experience.

When it comes to support for the Away Team, and mission generally, there are three things on the Home Team's hearts – money, welfare, and prayer.

Over the years many young people have gone for short term service and several with the BMS 28:19 Action Teams.

Martin knows each Away Team member personally, and church members felt it was a priority to enable him to pay a pastoral visit to each of them over a period of time. Although this programme is still not complete, it has been a great encouragement to missionaries, and has given Martin greater insight and an opportunity to teach.

It was as long ago as the 1950s that the church set up an Ambassadors' Fund to regulate financial support fairly to each individual and their children. These days many in the congregation do not specifically give to the account but expect the treasurer to allocate part of their giving as appropriate.

In recent years their commitment to mission and their Away Team has been around 50 per cent of the total budget. When there is a specific need, special gifts are made. When they come home to Godalming, they're there to help – like providing a full larder to welcome them. Far from being a once-a-week commitment, the Away Team are a daily concern. Every member of the congregation is given a daily prayer card on the first Sunday of the year in the form of a bookmark, with an Away Team family or member for each day. News updates for prayer and praise appear in the monthly church magazine

and prayer letters are regularly distributed.

Prayer figures significantly in the life of Godalming Baptist Church. In members' homes on the first Monday of each month, a small group has been meeting specifically to pray for the Away Team. As if that wasn't prayer enough, the church's housegroups support one or two Away Team members by prayer and contact, fostering closer fellowship. Urgent requests for prayer can be put on a confidential emergency prayer chain which exists within the fellowship.

And they pray for their Away Team at midweek and Sunday services, remembering them in intercessory prayers at Communion.

High technology has joined traditional letter writing in maintaining contact with the Away Team. Some members use e-mail, others faxes and the church have regular telephone live-links in their services

Many of the organisations and groups in the church have specific missionaries to whom they relate and these links seem to be a key to raising the awareness and challenge of mission.

The challenge to shift mission in any shape or form from being a low priority in many minds was grasped in 1995 when Godalming held a mission awareness year, each month focusing on a mission society or organisation connected to the fellowship.

Using magazine articles, displays, speakers, members of the Away Team, including a mission matter on the agenda of every church organisation and, in April, holding a mission awareness week, the challenge to serve was presented to every member.

Now they have the big picture of world mission. ●

Pat Dunning is the outgoing Secretary/Co-ordinator for Mission at Godalming Baptist Church, Surrey

Right: Missionaries to China in the last century – many never came back...

Below: Godalming's mission prayer warriors; the mission notice board; minister Martin Poole flanked by Pat Dunning and husband John, chairman of the church mission action group

Demands my life...

GOING FOR GOD SOMETIMES MEANS DICING WITH DEATH, SAYS **JAN KENDALL**. OCCASIONALLY, YOU DON'T COME BACK

A friend who, as part of his medical training, decided to spend a year in Uganda, recalls someone asking him: "So you're trusting God to take you out there and bring you back then?"

"No," he replied. "God has only showed me that he wants me to go there. What happens after that is up to him."

The perilous aspect of mission work is not something that is talked about today. Of course, there are freak accidents, kidnappings and even murder of mission personnel, but things like that would not happen to Baptists, would they?

History has shown that Baptist missionaries in a given location are not immune from the dangers that beset everyone else living at that time in that place. For BMS founder William Carey, it was the climate more than anything else that claimed its victims. Having spent months in getting to India, some like Daniel Brunsdon died within weeks. In a period of 12 months spanning 1811 to 1812, 10 people associated with the mission in India died, including five children.

William Carey's son, Felix, moved on to work in Burma where his first wife, Margaret, died when she was only 19. His second wife and two children died while on a boat trip to the capital Amarapura.

And so it was in every other frontline situation. Missionaries gave their lives wherever they were sent.

The threats were not only foreign germs, heat or hazardous travel. During the Boxer Rising in northern China 1899 to 1900, 159 Protestant missionaries, including 12 BMS workers and three children, were killed. Others were captured and imprisoned. A few weeks later eight more BMS missionaries were beaten to death. Within a month BMS had lost all is staff at the Shanxi mission.

As medical care and knowledge about disease has increased, so the number of mission personnel dying while working overseas has decreased. But it would be naive to assume they will automatically be spared, and that "death in service" won't happen today. BMS mission colleagues still get close to the cliff edge in life and death situations, like being:

- **Evacuated from Angola (1961), Bangladesh (1971), and Zaire (1991).**
- **Caught in rebel fighting (Zaire 1964).**
- **Held up in an armed robbery (Holmes, Brazil, 1992).**
- **Kidnapped at gunpoint (Grote, El Salvador 1994).**

Some actually go over the edge. In 1967 in the aftermath of the rebel unrest in Zaire, when the situation was considered relatively safe, David Claxton was murdered by armed robbers.

"Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God." (Psalm 31:5) ●

Talking with partners in Mission

Over 100 years have elapsed since the first Baptist Missionaries arrived in Brazil to preach the Gospel, and over forty since the first BMS couple were sent to work alongside our Brazilian brothers and sisters in the task of winning Brazil for Christ. We asked Pr Abelardo Rodrigues de Almeida. Principal of the Baptist Seminary in the state of Goias to offer his reflections on the legacies and prospects of missionary activity in Brazil, with special reference to Goias a region where the BMS have been involved in mission activity for only the last two years.

We thank the Lord for his vision given to our sister churches from abroad as to the task of missions.

Abelardo: As a nation we Brazilians and as a denomination we Baptists must thank the Lord for his vision given to our sister churches from abroad as to the task of missions. Had the vision not been seen and the command to go not been heard and heeded then many in Brazil would still be under the influence of he who is the Prince of darkness.

As a denomination we are totally mission orientated, there is an urgency to go to all nations. At present we have about 200 missionaries working in partnership abroad, and more than 200 involved in home mission, besides the regular monthly tithe that goes to the missionary enterprise.

Another legacy from the influence of foreign mission in Brazil has been the vision to win the nation for Christ. The missionaries we received produced strong autonomous churches with a strong sense of cooperation. This has led to the Baptists of Brazil accepting the challenge of trying to plant a Baptist church in every town by the year 2000.

This aim, however, produces a major challenge: preparing trained leadership for these new mission churches. We would need approximately 5000 such leaders to fill this need. The Lord is giving us the victory in establishing these churches. We therefore need the partnership, more than ever from our brothers and sisters from abroad.

The main areas of mission activities as I see it for missionaries from abroad would be:

1 Theological education. The exchange of theological ideas, the bringing of a wider view of the Baptist family, all strengthen our leadership in formation;

2 Social work. An area where we are still only just beginning to take our first steps and culturally we still encounter barriers to social involvement;

3 Church planting, nurturing and association work are all very much at the top of the Brazilian Baptist agenda;

4 Participation in special projects, friendship houses , drugs rehabilitation centres, and in our case here in Goias we will be looking to partners in mission to help man and run the Centennial Memorial Hospital.

As someone commented recently at mission conference here in Brazil when the 10/40 window came into discussion. "Let's keep our eyes and ears open to the needs and cries of the world. The lord commanded us to go to all nations, to the whole world and not to windows". I pray that in the coming years mission partnership amongst the nations may expand so that the whole Baptist family will embrace this call to mission. ●

HOW A BIT OF GOSSIP IN A GIRLS' MAGAZINE OPENED THE WAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED IN MISSION. **JAN KENDALL** REPORTS

Never too young to start

Involved in world mission: You can't be too young

It all seemed pretty insignificant at the time. The telephone rang at BMS and Phil Marsden, the Youth and Children's Co-ordinator answered. It wasn't the usual church magazine distributor wanting to talk about WOW magazine, or the next road-show host discussing the PA system at their church.

The call was from MIZZ magazine wanting to talk about a future article they were calling Globetrotting Girls.

You've never heard of MIZZ magazine?

You'll find it on your newsagent's shelf alongside all the other magazines for pubescent – and even pre-pubescent – girls, promoting features such as "Your sex nightmares", "I got pregnant the night I lost my virginity" and "My brother killed his baby but I told them I was guilty".

MIZZ had heard that BMS sent young people overseas and wanted to interview someone for their article. Phil gave them names of young women who had been overseas with BMS on 28:19 Action Team missions, and then left them to it.

In fact MIZZ got in contact with 19-year-old Sarah Brown, one of the five-strong India/Sri Lanka 1995/96 Action Team and her globetrotting story appeared, apparently unedited in the September 11/24 issue.

There was no evading why she went. God and mission got a loud and clear mention and BMS was given as a contact address.

But it hasn't stopped there. As a result of that article Phil has received several enquiries from girls wanting to go overseas; some were from Christians, others probably not. Many are from girls too young to go on 28:19 Action Teams.

Phil says: "We've written to everyone who's contacted us, telling them that though they are too young to go overseas with BMS, there are lots of ways they can get involved with spreading the Good News to their friends and others in the community or being a mission contact in their church.

One 14-year-old has taken Phil at his word. She has written to her BMS Area Co-ordinator and asked for information about how she can become a mission secretary in her church. Phil is keen to encourage her and others like her to take this up.

He quotes 1 Timothy 4:12. "Let no one despise your youth."

"I first preached at my school assembly when I was 13," he says. "Then I set up the CU there. I've taken 11 and 12-year-olds out witnessing and doing things like drama in the streets. None of them wanted to go home, they were having such a great time! There's loads of Biblical precedents of God using young people to do his work and spread his message.

"There's no reason why we should not continue in this way." ●

News

New medical officer

Dr Verna Houghton has been accepted to serve as BMS honorary medical officer following the resignation of David Wilson after three years in post. Verna (64), who is in general practice near Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, has been seeking ways of serving God using her medical skills and knowledge and says the BMS post came as an answer to prayer. She will develop her knowledge of tropical medicine. Three of her children have served on short-term placements overseas, one with BMS at Bolobo Hospital.

Computer transfer

BMS has spent the past two months transferring its financial history and records to a new computer system. Although this should result in greater efficiency in the future, Finance Manager Jim Neilson apologised for the delay in sending out receipts and letters of thanks during the transfer period.

Interserve links

Exploratory meetings are to be held between BMS Board of Management members and representatives of Interserve following a suggestion that the two organisations look at the possibility of greater co-operation in mission work.

New Director

Managing Editor of *mh*. Richard Wells has been appointed Director for Constituency Support, following Andy Stockbridge's move to Scripture Union. Richard (45), appointed Publicity Manager in March 1995, took up his new post in November.

Fund change

Charity Commission forms are being completed by the BMS to change the designation of its Angola Hospital Fund. The aim is to make the fund's £440,000 available more widely for health care in Africa.

Prayer time

A period of prayer and fasting will be held by BMS General Committee delegates during their meeting in June. A room will be set aside for prayer.

News in Brief

BB members at their home church help Beryl and Peter mark their retirement with a special cake

Cake to mark retirement

Beryl and Peter Dignum cut the cake at a Boys' Brigade party to mark their retirement as organisers of the annual BB fund-raising appeal for BMS. Over the 25 years they have served the BMS in this role, Beryl and Peter, who live at Watford, Hertfordshire have enabled BB companies to raise more than £200,000. Lorna and David Hyson, members of Cheam Baptist Church, Surrey, have taken over as organisers.

NEW CANDIDATES FOR MISSION

Four new candidates have been accepted for service with BMS. They are Alexander and Irene Black, and Malcolm and Linda Drummond.

Alex and Irene, long-standing members of Cumbernauld Baptist Church, are expected to leave for northern Thailand this month (January) to take up educational work in a school at Chiang Rai.

The couple, in their early 50s, are teachers who have taken early retirement and have extensive experience in teaching and educational management.

Irene retired as acting head teacher of Hillview and Mossknowe Schools, and Alex has been working with adults who have learning difficulties. They have three adult sons, David, Andrew and Douglas.

Their wide church involvement includes leadership roles and work with youngsters. They have been taking courses in cross-cultural awareness, Biblical basis for mission and in the Thai language.

Malcolm and Linda, members of Oakridge Baptist Church, High Wycombe, Bucks, where Malcolm minister, will be leaving for Bangladesh next year to train leaders at the Christian College of Theology.

Malcolm, who is working part-time on a doctorate on the Religion of the Patriarchs in Genesis 12 to 50, also has a doctorate in Physics from London, a first-class honours degree in Physics from Cambridge and a first-class honours degree in Theology from Spurgeon's College.

Linda has worked with Operation Mobilisation summer campaigns in Asian and Jewish areas of the UK, and has worked with children and young people. She is a reception teacher in High Wycombe and has also taught English as a second language.

Malcolm (35) and Linda (43), who have a three-year-old daughter, Ambreen, are expected to take courses in the Biblical basis for mission and cross-cultural awareness.

Record budget – but it will draw on reserves

BMS will spend a record £4.9 million in its work of world mission in this financial year. But in approving the 1996/7 figure, the BMS General Committee has had to budget for a £436,000 drain on the society's reserves.

Treasurer Mervyn Hancock outlined the new figures to the committee at its autumn meet in Harrow, north London.

The budget for direct spending on overseas mission will rise by 5.75 per cent, totalling – with other costs added – nearly £3.5m. Support costs in Britain – mainly promotion, education, recruitment and administration – are being reduced slightly to £1,465,550.

Mervyn said: "The challenge for the society is to inspire giving to world mission through BMS."

He explained that continually drawing from reserves decreases income from interest as the reserves run down. "We would like to challenge everyone so that donations and gifts increase."

Chris Hutt, Director of Finance and Administration, told the committee: "Giving during the last financial year didn't keep pace with inflation, which is currently running at about two per cent. In fact, giving hasn't matched inflation for the past five years.

BMS free reserves currently stand at about £1.5m but could drop to only £1m by the end of this financial year.

Degree for Angola veteran

Former BMS missionary Jim Grenfell has been awarded a Master of Philosophy degree from Leeds University for research on the history of the Baptist church in Angola and its influence on the life and culture of the local people.

Jim, who worked in Angola and Zaire, studied at Rawdon College and at St Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak, in preparation for mission work in Angola. He and his wife, Eileen, (Pep) spent a year in Lisbon learning Portuguese and in 1954 joined the BMS staff at Mbanza Kongo (San Salvador).

The war of independence forced them to leave Angola in 1961 and for the next 10 years they were based at Lukala in lower Zaire, working among refugees and supporting leaders of the Angolan church in exile.

After four years as minister of Thomas Helwys Baptist Church in Nottingham, Jim made two brief visits to Angola in 1975 and for 3½ years was based at Kimpese in lower Zaire, co-ordinating the work of the Zaire Protestant Relief Agency.

In 1980 he became a BMS staff member at St Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak. Leading up to retirement in 1992, he was for five months the Personnel and Candidate Secretary for the BMS.

He visited Angola again during his retirement to research his thesis. Since receiving his degree, Jim has continued working on the church's history from 1940 to 1970 and is planning the translation of his work into Portuguese.

Tributes to retiring General Director

Retiring BMS General Director Reg Harvey was given a standing ovation by delegates of General Committee at their autumn meeting. There were gifts, too, for Reg and his wife, Maire.

It was one of a number of retirement events for Reg, who has been at the helm of BMS for more than 14 years. They started as long ago as April at the Baptist Assembly of the BMS and the Baptist Union of Great Britain in Blackpool.

Welsh Baptists have said their farewells and at the Assembly of the Baptist Union of Scotland in October, Reg's service was acknowledged with a presentation by Ian Mundy (pictured) of an engraved Caithness bowl. Maire was presented with a Celtic brooch.

At October's General Committee, Carol Murray, minister at Haddenham Baptist Church, Bucks, paid tribute to Reg's leadership and inspiration, recalling the valuable insight into world mission she had gained while she was a ministerial student at his church in Rugby.

Carolyn is new chairman

The current BMS President, Carolyn Green, is to be the society's next Chairman of the Board of Management.

Carolyn, who is touring the nation with her At The Cutting Edge programme, to inspire greater support for world mission, takes up the post in May, when she passes the presidential reins to Martin Pearse.

From this month (January), when current chairman Basil Amey steps down, Martin – who is vice-president – will act as chairman.

Carolyn (45), who has put legal studies on hold for her presidential year, is on the leadership team of South Parade Baptist Church, Leeds, with her husband, Steve. They are former BMS missionaries who worked in Zaire.

Basil was the society's first board chairman following a review in 1993 which divided the BMS into five directorates and introduced a board of management to support the society's decision-making process.

David Doonan and Carol Murray were renominated as representative directors – General Committee members who sit on the board.

BMS news

News

INDIA

Five mission personnel were treated in hospital after they and three others were beaten up by an angry crowd which wrecked buildings being used by Youth With A Mission for discipleship training in the south of the country. The violence flared after the YWAM team refused demands by a rival religious group to leave. Talks aimed at a solution to the conflict reached a settlement after one of the injured told his attackers that he forgave them. (YWAM News)

IRAN

The Islamic regime is reported to have increased efforts to stop the spread of evangelical protestant churches. Sources said Muslim converts had been taken in for questioning and beaten. The news follows reports that a young Christian pastor, Mohammed Bagher Yusefi, had been found hanged in a forest near his home. Iranian Christians believe he was murdered because the authorities were reluctant to give up the body. (ODNB)

CHINA

Veteran Christian leader Alan Yuan closed his Beijing housechurch after being pressured to register with the government by Religious Affairs Bureau officials who offered a merger with the local Three Self church. It came days after he had baptised 200 new believers. Alan (82) has refused since the 1950s to join the Three Self church because "politics and religion should not mix". He spent 22 years in jail for refusing to compromise. (ODNB)

SCOTLAND

An appeal for £7,000 to buy books for pastoral students with limited access to theological works, has been launched by the Scottish Baptist Book Project. Requests have been received from BMS partner bodies in Zaire, Angola and Nicaragua, and there are outstanding requests from India and Bangladesh. The project is operated by the Scottish Baptist Men's Movement from 17 Queen's Terrace, Ayr.

RUSSIA

European Baptists and the Baptist World Alliance are co-ordinating a £138,000 fund-raising effort to save the historic Moscow Central Baptist Church building which is suffering from deteriorating foundations and crumbling walls. (EBPS)

News in Brief

Tornado victims in Bangladesh: BMS Relief Fund helped families recover from the devastation

Spiritual fire in cold places

Reports of a spiritual awakening among Russian Eskimos have followed a whistlestop evangelistic campaign by Canadian evangelist Bill Prankard *(from Spread the Fire magazine)*.

Prankard, involved in a revival in Arctic Canada among the Inuits, discovered there were similar Eskimo people in Arctic Russia who had never been reached with the gospel.

Two years ago, with a team of nine Inuits, he flew in by helicopter, shared the gospel, prayed with people who responded, left the Bible in their own language and flew on to the next remote village.

Nine months later, the team returned to find Christians living in the same fashion as the first century church.

In one village, they reported, more than 1,000 had accepted the gospel but with no teaching, they had simply accepted the New Testament scriptures at face value.

They had followed the Acts of the Apostles by meeting daily and praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

There were deliverances, healings and manifestations of spiritual gifts. In fact, reports said, they had even sent messengers to villages which had not been visited with the gospel.

And it is reported that they were not surprised when they faced opposition.

That's what it said in their New Testament...

Compassion in action

The beginning of the year sees the fourth direct appeal to churches and individuals to support the BMS Relief Fund. And this year, the challenge is to make up for lost cash.

In 1996, gifts to the relief fund fell by 15%.

Since the relief fund was set up in 1968, as a response to great human need in countries where BMS is working, more than £780,000 has helped innocent, suffering people caught in disaster, flood, famine, war, or drought.

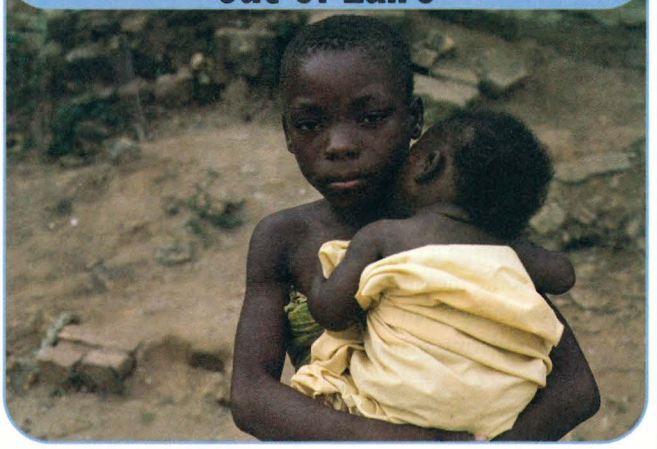
In the past year almost £65,000 has been sent to Jamaica to help with cyclone damage; Zaire both for assistance after the Kinshasa air crash, and also provision of drugs for Bolobo and Yakusu during a cholera epidemic; Sierra Leone for an ambulance and medical equipment; Bangladesh, two separate amounts to help with relief work following first a tornado and then a flood; Liberia for assistance with refugees; Rwanda for medical supplies and help with needs for Rwandan refugees now living in refugee camps in Tanzania.

BMS continues to receive heart-rending requests for relief fund help. Disasters are unpredictable and when they strike, victims need immediate help – there is no time to organise publicity and an appeal – so the relief fund needs constant topping up.

Many churches use their January communion offering as an opportunity to give to the relief fund; others prefer to give regular amounts over the year.

BMS Relief Fund promotion material for churches and gift envelopes for individuals are now available.

Baptist aid as refugees flood out of Zaire



Increased support for resettling Rwandan refugees from Zaire, following cross-border troubles during the past few months, has come from Baptist World Aid. Amid the turmoil, Rwandan Baptists have launched a programme to provide returnees with seeds, tools, basic household equipment and emergency food.

The initiative is intended to ease the burden on international agencies which had made plans for a gradual return by refugees. But the flood of Rwandans has stretched their resources and original reception plans had to be abandoned in favour of more labour-intensive feeding at commune level.

However, Claver Buzizi, the Baptist Union of Rwanda's (UEBR) projects officer, is convinced feeding in camps is not the best way to help returning refugees. "We must rather equip them with the appropriate basic materials which would enable them to struggle for their own lives or survival within their lands," he says.

He estimates that about £125 would provide a family with the basic survival pack which they are now distributing. To boost the BWA support, the BMS Relief Fund has made a £20,000 grant which is expected to help more than 160 families, as well as a £5,000 grant to help Rwandan refugees in Tanzania.

BWA Director Paul Montacute (pictured below) has been working with Baptist aid groups globally to co-ordinate a response.

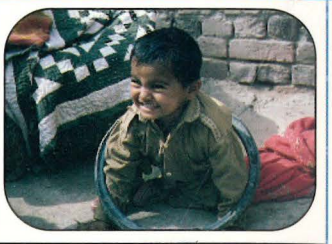
But even though returnees will have the survival pack in their hands, there is still concern at what families will find when they arrive in their home villages – their homes may have been looted or, worse, occupied by another family. And even if families can resettle, emergency food will be needed while they clear their land and reseed or plant for the next harvest.

Paul Montacute fears that with images of returning refugees in the media, people in Britain will assume that the crisis is over and he is urging continued awareness.

He says: "The majority of Rwandan refugees are still in Zaire; Kivu in Zaire is being governed by a rebel force in opposition to the Zairian government; hundreds of thousands of returnees are stretching the infrastructure of Rwanda; and Burundi is still in turmoil.

"We'll need to be responsive to massive human need for many moths to come."

Alistair Brown



Giving kids the best

I love this photo. The young lad's face is wrinkled with pleasure, the sheer joy of playing with an old bicycle tyre. Simple, innocent fun.

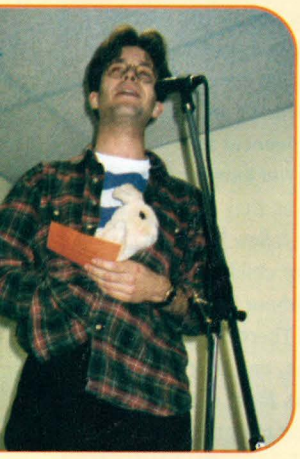
Kids. You long for the best for them as they grow up. But this little follow is one of millions of children in an Asian country where they won't hear of Jesus. There are few Christians, and they're given a hard time. Most of the population are unevangelised.

BMS is committed to work in places like that. Our new strategy specifically targets the unevangelised countries of the world. That's where we'll concentrate our resources. Why? Because we long for the best for kids like this, and the best includes the gospel of Jesus.

WORLD news

Under the hammer

Going, going, gone! Sold to the Revd Ken Stewart – a home security assistant. Now, what am I bid for Pam's offer to do a basket of ironing?"



Above: Bid to raise cash: Horfield promise auctioneer with his assistant, Jiminy Bunny

Right: Crossing a "shark infested river" at a Union, Heathfield, WOW Club evening

This was the scene at Horfield Baptist Church, Bristol, when they held a promises auction for BMS. More than 60 promises went under the hammer, ranging from a few hours baby-sitting or gardening, to creating a caricature and a two-night break in a holiday cottage.

As a result, more than £800 was raised for a BMS Bangladesh Partners in Projects (PIPs) scheme – a primary health care programme started by BMS colleague and Horfield member Sue Headlam.

Horfield's world mission group leader Katie Wilkinson said: "It was a great opportunity to offer service to one another as well as to support the work of a friend and fellow member overseas."

Enthusiasm for WOW Club

To the youngsters of Union Church, Heathfield, in East Sussex, WOW is much more than a magazine – it's a fully-fledged, twice-monthly Friday evening club.

With the help of BMS resources – the WOW Action Pack and bi-monthly magazines – club leaders give dozens of children aged seven to 11 an insight into mission around the world, glimpsing at the variety of cultures in the countries they look at each meeting.

"It's 1½ hours of fun and fellowship," says WOW leader Sue Fletcher. "We try to give the children an insight and some measure of Christian teaching in an exciting, stimulating manner which is relevant to their lives today.

"The aim is that the children will develop into caring Christian young people who are sympathetic to the needs of those around them and are receptive to the ideas of world mission."

Each meeting is packed with activities – games, drama, competitions, singing, and sometimes sampling food from other countries.

Minister Ray Avent is enthusiastic about the

venture: "Some of the children already have church links, some belong to uniformed groups based at the church, while others have no church background at all but twice a month this cocktail of mission potential is stirred into vibrating action!"

It's a hit with the youngsters. Nine-year-old Alison likes the way the club is crammed with fun and loves the leaders. "Because we have quite fun leaders, we

Dates for your Diary

At The Cutting Edge Presidential tour

In the first three months of the year BMS President Carolyn Green will be visiting various parts of the country meeting church leaders and sharing in celebration.

Celebration meetings

with speakers

January 10,	South Parade, Leeds – Alistair Brown
January 12,	South Bank, Middlesbrough – Alan Pain
January 17,	Histon, Cambridge – Michael Quicke
January 18,	Union, High Wycombe – Steve Gaukroger
February 7,	Watnall Road, Nottingham – David Coffey
Febraury 8,	Central, Leicester – John Lewis
March 7,	South Street, Exeter – Ian Coffey
March 13,	Newtown, Powys – Andrew Green
March 14,	Sutton Coldfield – Andrew Green

Other Events and meetings

Saturday 4 January
Leicester BMS Auxiliary New Year Prayer Meeting,Friar Lane and Braunston Baptist Church.
Details: Theo Lambourne 0116 271 3633

Friday 10 January
Get Real roadshow for teens and 20s with the BMS UK Action Team. Harrogate Baptist Church, Yorkshire, 7.30-9.30pm.
Details: Freda Jagger 01423 560700

Saturday 11 January
WOW Action Day for sixes to 13s with the BMS UK Action Team. Harrogate Baptist Church, Yorkshire, 10am-4pm.
Details: Freda Jagger 01423 560700

Monday 13 January
Women's Missionary Fellowship meeting, St Stephen's Church Centre, Glasgow. Theme: BMS
Details: Ann Durning 0141 6416248

Wednesday 5 February
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Meeting, Adelaide Place BC, Glasgow. Theme: 10-40 Window.
Details: Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Friday 7 February
Get Real roadshow for teens and 20s with the BMS UK Action Team. Andover Baptist Church, Hampshire, 7.30-9.30pm.
Details: Brian Percy 01264 392032

Saturday 8 February
WOW Action Day for sixes to 13s with the BMS UK Action Team. Shirley Baptist Church, Southampton, 10am-4pm.
Details: Elaine Mason 01703 773685

Monday 10 February
Women's Missionary Fellowship meeting, St Stephen's Church Centre, Glasgow. Theme: MAF
Details: Ann Durning 0141 6416248

Wednesday 5 March
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Meeting,Adelaide Place BC, Glasgow. Theme: Zaire
Details:Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Inspiration, motivation, ideas, news on world mission for churches

ission Link

can do quite fun things," she says. "It's good to meet other people, play games, learn about God and other countries who are less fortunate than us.

"I enjoy the WOW map because you can stick on the stickers and it looks really good."

And it's a hit with the parents as well. Mother Wendy Schlieder says her daughter, Emma, can't wait to go to club evenings. "She's learning a lot about the world and doing it with great fun."

Club members are supporting the BMS WOW project By His Stripes, which is raising money for hospitals in India. Mothers have been asked to help their children make rice puddings to sell in portions to raise money.

The children are not the only ones to benefit. Sue says she values being a WOW club leader: It has enabled me to learn about BMS and it's made me realise that the mission field is not only in under-developed countries but also here in the modern affluent West.

"Holding our club nights on Fridays, we are available to children who can't attend Sunday school for one reason or another and this gives us an opportunity for outreach to those children and their families."

Focus on Thailand

Thailand has been the focus of attention for Trinity Baptist Church, in Chesham, Buckinghamshire. Members are supporting work there through the BMS Partners in Projects (PIPs) scheme.

To highlight mission work in Thailand, where fewer than one per cent of the population are Christians, three young people set up an exhibition at the church to coincide with a mission focus week.

The table-top display, depicting the topography, along with artwork, factsheets and detailed research, was organised by Louise Bayliss, Louise King and Darren Lacey (below).

Cycling for 'Stripes'

Adventurers at Bishop Auckland Baptist Church (above) oiled their wheels, checked their brakes and pedalled their way around 10 miles of the Durham countryside in aid of the By His Stripes project.

The group of sevens to 11s planned their sponsored cycle ride hoping for fine weather in September and weren't disappointed. Neither were they disappointed with their efforts, which raised £185.40 for the project appeal, which will help hospitals in India

Burglary at farm

A PAIR of Mission speakers, worth £1,000, and two handbags, containing cash, cheque cards and cheque books, were stolen in a burglary on a farm at Bishton, Newport sometime between 12.30am and 8am on July 22.

It's simple, said the man on Saturday night. As you come into the town turn left at the first lot of traffic lights and then you just keep going. In a mile you go up a hill and the church is on the right. Simple... except that having taken the turn at the traffic lights the road then divided – a bifocation. Following instincts, it's the left fork. Several miles later, there's the church – down the hill and on the left. "Ah", said the anxious man on the door, "I told them you'd have problems." Of course, the BMS speaker should have known that you take the right fork, all the local people did! And all those people the speaker asked should have known the way to the church, it was nearly 200 years old!

And next time that BMS speaker took a service they used maps as a visual aid!

SANDRA CARTER MEETS FORMER BMS MISSIONARY BOYD WILLIAMS WHOSE VISION FOR EQUIPPING PEOPLE FOR MISSION IS BEING REALISED IN A WEST LONDON BAPTIST CHURCH

Church that touches the world

Lucia, a Brazilian Christian working among street children, moved to Southall to learn English for easier communication with English-speaking supporters. Lucineia plans to work for Christ in North Africa as an English teacher and came to improve her English.

Finnish teacher Timo stopped at Southall on his way to a Bible school post in Ethiopia as he needs to learn Amharic through English.

A group of Brazilians about to work with YWAM in China need English to communicate with colleagues.

These are some of the 1,000-plus students who have benefited from a unique programme run by Southall Baptist Church in Britain's most culturally diverse area.

Southall, in west London, is the country's biggest centre of Asian culture, full of Muslim mosques, Sikh gudwaras, Hindu temples, and ethnic shops displaying exotic goods from around the world.

Boyd Williams moved there as pastor 18 years ago, after four years as a missionary in Brazil. He says: "Southall Baptist Church was a white church in an Asian town. The church had to find its particular ministry and role here.

"We became convinced this church is ideally placed to be a training centre for world mission. Increasing numbers of people in developing countries are involved in mission, and we see ourselves as a door that people can go through and out to touch the nations."

Eight years ago the church set up the Southall School of Languages and Missionary Orientation, and many former students are now missionaries in places as different as China and Eastern Europe, Africa and Brazil. It has two main courses.

First, its missionary orientation course draws overseas students mainly from Brazil and Korea. Most are already qualified in theology and working as pastors, and they come to learn more about mission. The course is led by Southall Baptist elder Fred Nuckley and local church leaders.

The school's second course, TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), draws Christian students from many countries who want to improve their English, usually to facilitate their mission work. English is increasingly the common language in any international venture.

Students come to Southall for one or two years. As well as

formal study they are expected to become fully involved in the church and its witness.

Sometimes non-Christians join the language school, drawn by the school's reputation for professional and supportive tuition alongside much-lower-than-average fees at £275 a term. Many become Christians before returning home.

This international school operates in a site that's no bigger than the average church. Lecture rooms are packed into the old schoolroom buildings. Some students live on site, others in houses which the church rents or has bought, some with church members – Boyd and his wife, Tricia, usually have a few living with them.

More than 100 students are currently packing the classrooms, but Boyd rejects any suggestion that his church has found the ultimate formula for mission: "We don't yet have it all right, but I'm sure there's a place for a centre like this which, in a simple setting and at a very low cost, can help equip Christians to work in mission around the world.

Students come to Southall for one or two years. As well as formal study they are expected to become fully involved in the church and its witness.

"We're simply responding to the needs and the opportunities around us. This multi-ethnic community is the ideal place for people to explore mission, putting it into practice in the supportive environment of a living church."

The students benefit, the church benefits, and the community benefits.

At the moment the numbers wanting to learn English far exceed those studying mission, and the team hope the balance will improve.

Southall Baptist Church has 20 to 30 nationalities represented among the 180 in its congregation, a quarter of them whites. So after 18 years grappling with the issue of preaching Christ in a multi-cultural setting, what has Boyd learned?

He says: "Ethnic groups are best reached by ethnic groups."

The church has a Punjabi service on Sunday afternoon, led

continues on page 20

Mission training students at Southall Baptist Church play hard as well as work hard

Continued from page 19

by an Indian member of the church staff.

A Korean missionary was sent here from a Korean church which supports her. She visits, disciples, runs Bible studies and reaches out to Muslims.

Two Brazilian staff members – sent and supported by a church in Brazil – and a Jamaican colleague run a colourful Jamboree on Friday evenings which attracts Afro-Caribbeans. The church recently paid bail for a Nigerian political refugee who they hope will work among local Africans.

And they brought over an Egyptian Christian leader to help plant an Arab Christian fellowship at nearby Sipson, a stone's throw from Heathrow Airport.

A culturally diverse church, Boyd suggests, should include in its church life something that unites and something that separates. Have times when everyone meets together for worship. But have also events where groups can express themselves freely.

Not that Southall has it all sewn up.

He adds: "We are working to move further into multi-cultural mixed leadership in the church and real commitment to cross-cultural mission. We still have a long way to go in willingness to love and understand people of various cultures and to step out as a church and do something different."

But they've made a start. ●

Sandra Carter is a Christian journalist who lives in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

Ti

The first in a new series edited by **Jan Kendall** which focuses on six towns or cities around the world in which BMS personnel are operating. Tirana, in Albania, is still finding its feet after emerging from 40 years under communist dictator Enver Hoxha.

Rapid growth after the Great War

The capital city's history in brief
by Glyn Jones

TIRANA IS A NEW CITY; most of it has been built since 1922 when the people of what was left of Albania after World War I decided it should be their new capital – about half of Albania was given to Yugoslavia and Greece at the end of the war. Before then Tirana was an unremarkable market town with a population of about 10,000. Today it has a population of nearly half a million and is growing fast.

Tirana developed rapidly in the 1930s under Italian fascist influence. Many of the government buildings were erected in Mussolini's time. During the communist period (1945 to 1991) Tirana became the

Continues on page 22

rana

Our Town

Continued from page 21

bureaucratic heart of the country and many unattractive apartment blocks were built to house, in minimal conditions, the consequent increase in population.

Since the collapse of communism the city has expanded even more rapidly as countless thousands have come down from the poverty-ridden northern mountains to seek their fortune in the apparently prosperous capital city. These migrants live in the new shanty towns which have sprung up on the western margin of Tirana.

Today Tirana struggles with an excess of motor vehicles and pedestrians. Five years ago there were very few vehicles and half as many people; now Tirana's council has difficulty in meeting even the most basic needs of its population. ●

Our town

Tirana

A city of disappearing drain covers

First impressions by Ruth Kelso, volunteer with BMS working at the School for Missionary Children in Tirana

AFTER A LONG overnight journey, I stepped off the plane into the chaos of the customs section at Tirana Airport. I was whisked off in a taxi still dazed from lack of sleep.

Not surprisingly, my first impression was of noise and confusion. Everybody seems to be busy wandering about and there is constantly a stream of traffic not obeying any traffic control! The first couple of times I crossed the road with members of the BMS team, I was left standing on the kerb while they called from the other side of the street. Now I've learned just to take a deep breath and go. Cars in Albania stop for nothing!

Tirana far exceeded my expectations as a city. It has shops, cafes, cultural places, buildings of worship and a park just like any other capital city. However, in other countries, you wouldn't need to paddle through mud to get to them. It's treacherous to walk the streets because of pot holes and disappearing drain covers!

The people in the city always look very serious when they walk about, yet anyone I have met has been very friendly and interested in me. ●

BMS joined the first wave of mission

The Christian scene

IMMEDIATELY AFTER democracy came to Albania in 1991 missionaries working with Albanians in Kosova (formerly Yugoslavia) came over the border to work in Tirana.

After an evangelistic crusade in the main Qemal Stafa Football Stadium the first modern protestant churches in Tirana were the Nxenesit e Jezusit, Emanuel Church, and the First International Protestant Assembly. Another church, Rruga e Paqes, based on the radio ministry that the European Christian Mission broadcast during the communist era, was formalised.

In 1992, under the European Baptist Federation, BMS doctors Chris and Mairi Burnett arrived in Tirana to head up a holistic mission work. A BMS Summer Team arrived in June 1993 to renovate a school in the suburbs and to hold a children's mission. Their work was consolidated by BMS colleague Saverio Guarna who brought converts into the centre of Tirana to meet at the recently purchased Qendra Baptiste.

Some of the original converts returned to their village of Bregu-i-Lumit to start a church in summer 1994 with the help of BMS workers Ryder and Heather Rogers. Gale Hartley of the American Southern Baptist Convention, who worked with the Tirana church left to platn churches in south Albania.

A further church, called Freedom Fellowship, began in Tirana at the end of 1995, started by a Co-operative Baptist Fellowship missionary, Mary-Ida Buzhard, and Gill and Glyn Jones and Geoff Timms of BMS. Now every Sunday at least 30 fellowships planted by different missionary organisations meet in Tirana, besides the many Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches. Most evangelical churches work closely under the Evangelical Alliance of Albania. ●

A new role for the TV

What they do in their spare time, by Gill Jones

Leisure is not something that people think about. The television is always on in most homes. In the past it was to prevent the neighbours eavesdropping; now it has become the norm.

It has always been the tradition to visit family regularly. A woman I know well told me her family cannot understand why she does not have time to visit them. I know she has two jobs in order to support her children; this was unknown four years ago. Her reason for refusing my invitation to come to Church was that she has to clean, wash, but mostly, be at home for the family to visit if they wish.

In the summer many families go to the beach on Sundays. This is new. Those who can afford it will go to live in their family village or to Durres (the seaside) for a month each summer. The cinema is almost dead but live theatre is very much alive. I'm told that it is difficult to get a seat.

Tirana – life on the streets

Roger Cady tastes the atmosphere of the capital

AS I WALKED out one Albanian evening I heard gunshots. Stopping at the stall on the corner of the street I asked its owner – a questioning look and a certain amount of mime was my only mode of communication – what was going on?

His response, as he smiled and pointed, might well have been in answer to an "Excuse me, would you be kind enough to direct me to the gunfire?" request for directions.

"Certainly Sir. Straight down the road, first left and you'll find the gunfire on the right, opposite the butchers!"

A walk down a Tirana street presents many hazards apart from "hot and shell". A thunder storm illuminates the pathway just long enough to reveal potholes fast filling with water, but not in sufficient detail to locate them accurately. Missing man-hole covers leave chasms in the middle of the pavement.

Where to cross the road needs careful judgment. Lakes two metres wide bordering the kerb stones are just too wide to leap. With the rain comes a yellow mud which coats the path and causes an army of shop keepers to attack their small frontages with buckets and brushes. The trick is to wait until the first bucketful has been fired across your bows, and then to scurry on before they can reload.

Beware the building site! Here danger lurks above and below. As you pick your way across the piles of sand or rubble spread across the path and spilling on to the highway, hacked off rendering or showers of dust will descend without warning.

One-way-streets in Tirana are that in name only. All traffic ignores not only one-way signs but also traffic lights. Crossing Skenderbeg Square involves you in matador-style movements. You weave, sway and dodge through six lines of vehicles and many counter-circulatory bikes. It almost seems appropriate to flick your cape and expect a pair of wing mirrors from the cheering crowd when you reach the other side unscathed. ●

A fair climb...

A new series from the diary of **Owen Clark**

There's nothing like a bit of church planting on the plateau to brighten up a dull life, I thought, as I peered through the rain and deepening gloom.

The windscreen wipers swished and the headlights picked out the large muddy pools in the sandy road ahead. Good job it was a Land Rover.

An occasional groan from the rear emphasised my dilemma. Go faster and get there more quickly, or go more slowly for minimum discomfort to the poor woman in the back.

We had arrived about midday, as arranged, at Nguene, a village on the Bateke plateau some 60 miles east of Kinshasa, and 1,000ft higher, beyond a deep valley carrying the swift-flowing Mai Ndombe river.

We had been welcomed hospitably by Iwa, only 33, who had become chief after his uncle's death, and had also inherited his uncle's wife; a bit unfortunate, as he had a perfectly good one of his own, but such is the custom of the Bateke people. They each had their own mud hut.

Some of the villagers were Christians but having recently moved the village about six miles, near to its original site, and there being no church, school or dispensary, Iwa had invited the CBFZ (Baptist Church of the River Zaire) to start work there.

Menacing rain clouds and rumbling thunder had delayed the start of the planned teaching and evangelistic sessions and, while sheltering and talking, a man had hurried up and whispered in the chief's ear.

There was an emergency.

A young woman, seven months pregnant, had just returned from Kinshasa on the back of a lorry and was going into labour. "Will you take her to the nearest dispensary?"

Now, with chief Iwa beside me, the pastor and two of the men in the middle, and a number of women with the patient in the back, we were heading through the rain, on a rough road, to . . . I knew not where.

Suddenly, hitting a hole in the depths of a large puddle, there was a loud cry and vociferous pandemonium broke out among the women.

I instinctively slowed but the chief urged: "Go on, go on!" The odd words that floated through – "cloth . . . " "placenta . . . " "plastic bag . . . " – did little to help me concentrate on navigating the bumps and holes.

Through a village, across an abandoned maize project, down a seemingly endless track, we eventually came to a few houses in the middle of nowhere. People came and peered at us.

"Where's the nurse!" shouted the chief. An old fellow in a grubby smock appeared and Iwa hastily explained that we had a premature birth on board.

He pointed to the dispensary. We drove to a low tin-roofed building, lit by our headlights until I stopped.

No torch. Someone produced a flickering oil lamp and the women followed the old nurse inside, one of them carrying a cloth bundle.

At length the women came out.

"A boy."

"Is he breathing?"

"Yes."

"How much does he weigh?"

"One kilo, two hundred grams."

"He'll never survive," prognosticated the chief under his breath. I wasn't sure which of the women had given birth – certainly not the one delightedly carrying the bundle. She opened the cloth to reveal a tiny pale-coloured mite sucking his thumb.

Back at Nguene there was a collective sigh of relief. We ate the meal that was waiting and retired, somewhat shattered, to bed. Chief Iwa had vacated his hut for Deanna and myself, with its tin roof, smooth plastered mud walls, large battery clock on the wall and a hen sitting on her eggs in the corner.

old R E

At morning prayers we followed Luke's account of the birth of John the Baptist and the hopes which it inspired. Pastor Kiyedi had interviewed candidates for baptism and found seven ready.

Descending a path through the forested valley and winding down among the trees ever more steeply, we came to a small sandy indent in the bank of the Mai Ndombe river. Pastor Kiyedi conducted a brief service and baptised four men and three women, one of whom was hugely pregnant, on confession of their faith.

The benediction pronounced, the men moved upstream to bathe, discreetly leaving that spot for the women, who had also brought water containers to fill; this was their regular supply.

It just so happened that I had taken my fishing gear and, giving a rod to the pastor, and hooks and line to two of the young men, one of whom dug some worms, we soon had four lines out into the river. By early afternoon, the score being one fish to Kinshasa and one to Nguene, a draw was agreed and we began the 45 minute climb back to the village.

When darkness began to close in rapidly, around six o'clock, evangelist Mputu got the Tilley lamp going and our two small fish reappeared in a sauce for supper. Animated singing to the rhythm of a drum attracted people to the chief's compound where Mputu used pictures depicting the "heart of man" to appeal for faith in Jesus as the way to banish the evils that lurk in the human heart.

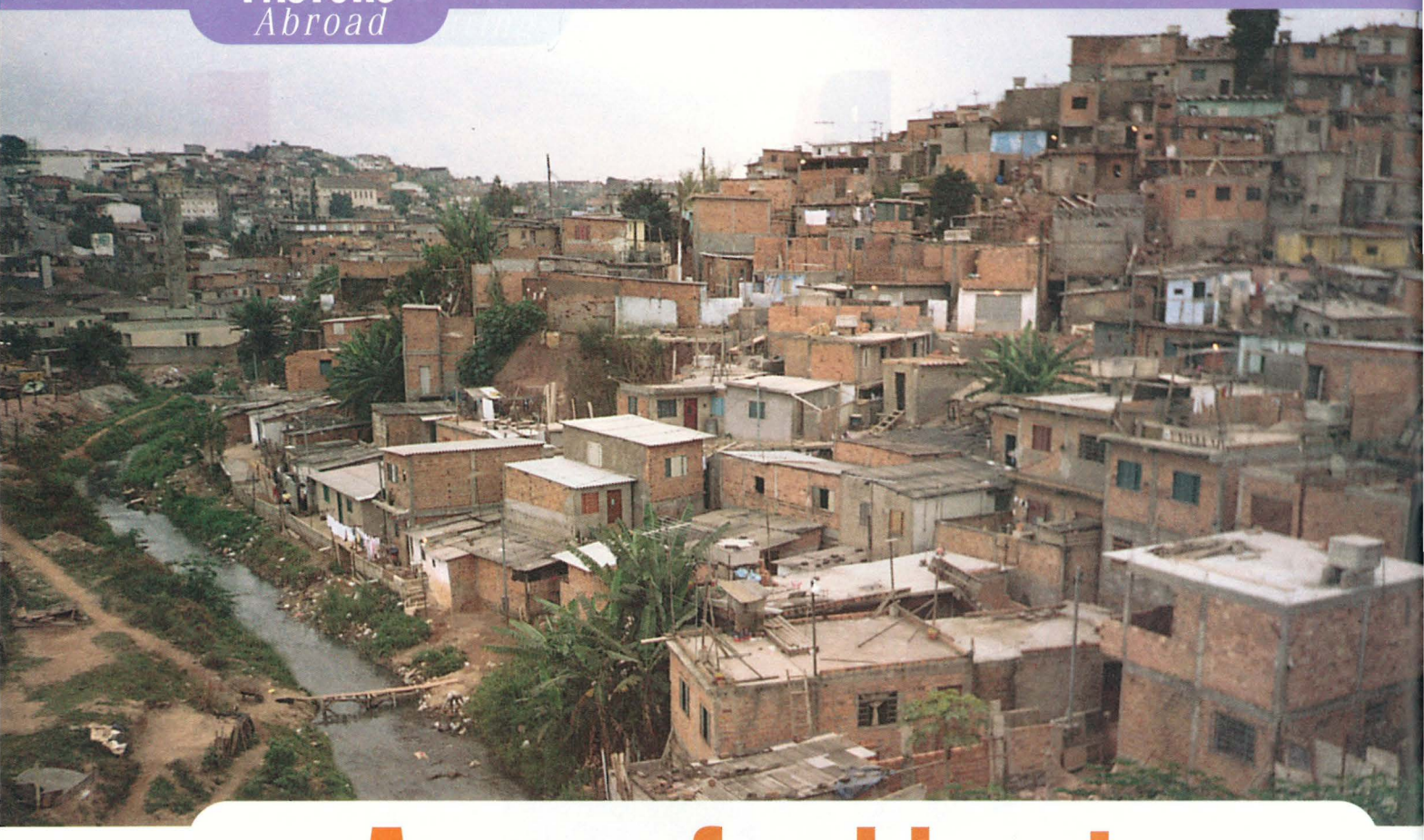
Two young men responded and were prayed for and counselled. Pastor Kiyedi conducted communion and welcomed the newly-baptised into the fellowship of the fledgling church. It no doubt had a long way to go but a new church had been planted.

After a final meal, chief Iwa offered 10 hectares (25 acres) to the church for future development, for which he would require only the customary gifts of cloth, salt, sugar and drink.

Our side gave a tray for communion cups and four wooden boxes for making bricks. A Bible study on Mark's gospel was left with Pablo who had been chosen by the new church as their teacher.

When we left the young mother was still nursing her premature babe. We prayed for a miracle but knew that his life hung in the balance; miscarriages, it seemed, were not uncommon in the village and we were haunted by the thought of pregnant women collecting water daily from the river. Our own legs were still feeling the effects of that climb.

Yes, you had to admit that it was, indeed, a fair old climb. ●



Large-scale poverty: Brazil's favelas

Right: David Morris visits a favela family

A cup of cold water

WHAT DRIVES A CHURCH LEADER TO LEAVE HIS FAMILY, TRAVEL HALF WAY ROUND THE WORLD AND TASTE LIFE IN A STRANGE CULTURE FOR EIGHT WEEKS? **DAVID MORRIS** EXPLAINS

I stood in one of the 1,600 favelas in São Paulo. Earlier in the week part of it had been destroyed by fire and although the burned area was only the size of a football pitch, 2,000 people had been made homeless.

It was no more than a narrow muddy passage surrounded by rubbish and small wooden huts. Rats and sewage make it an unpleasant place to live – not to mention the crime and drug problem.

There I was with David Meikle. And I thought: "How can the gospel be made relevant here? How do you make Jesus Christ known in word and action? Whatever you do is going to be so small as to be almost worthless."

Let the little children come to me.

It is not uncommon in Brazil to feel a small hand touch the side of your leg, to look down and see two large pleading brown eyes looking at you. It's a distressing experience, not least because you wonder what is the right thing to do.

Is this child really in need or just trying to kid a gullible tourist?

In the city of Fortaleza, a work started in 1982 by a Baptist church caters for about 150 children up to the age of 13, all poor, malnourished and local. Some have physical, mental and emotional problems and they receive medical care, nutritious food, education and love.

It has been estimated that there are 25 million deprived children in Brazil and that eight million of them live on the streets. What good is it providing for 150? It's less than a drop in a bucket.

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.

I had visited the favela with my camera hidden under my shirt in case it was noticed and stolen. "David! Take the camera out of there! People think the bulge is a gun!"

Many Christians in Brazil are frightened to go into the favelas where there are many things that I wouldn't want to touch. BMS colleague David Meikle is willing to get his hands dirty putting in sewers and covering open drains, as well as entering people's homes for Bible study.

In Fortaleza, the churches run a rehabilitation centre for drug abusers. I met a young man who had been an addict for 15 years, had attempted to take his own life four times and had been involved in violent gang fights. The love and help he received had led to his conversion and he was hoping to begin a new life.

The favela in which David Meikle works houses 80,000 people. so what difference can a few sewers and a handful

"Today has been, without a doubt, the worst day so far. My stomach has finally succumbed and I have spent most of the day with nausea. On return to Kabonda, I just got to the hole in the ground in time to be sick. A touch of diarrhoea, too... It's not very nice being sick 4,000 miles from home, surrounded by people who speak Lingala and conscious that you can't, for the life of you, remember what 'I've been sick' is in French."

These words, written in 1989, formed part of the mixed but life-changing experience of my first sabbatical visiting missionaries and looking at the life of Baptist pastors in Zaire. So profound was that six-week experience that I decided seven years later to spend my next sabbatical in Brazil.

of converted drug addicts make?

Neither do I condemn you; go and leave your life of sin.

Most of the women who attend the clinic run by the BMS's Mary Parsons are unmarried. One pregnant girl was 12.

They come to have their blood pressure measured and to be taught about breast-feeding and general health care. After their babies are born the continue to come for six months.

Mary's clinic looks after between 60 and 70 women – a tiny part of the total need of the area.

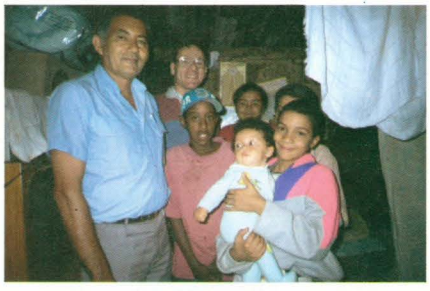
I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.

The woman had had her baby but could not produce any milk to feed it. What should she do? Buy a milk and sugar supplement she could ill afford?

Fortunately for her, she spoke to Suzana Greenwood, who recommended the high protein food supplement she and her husband, Mark, are producing. She added it to her food and the next day the milk flowed freely.

Here is one example of the good effect of a co-operative run by the Greenwoods. Not only is the mix excellent but a very basic income is provided for four women though its production.

BMS personnel Mark and Suzanna would be the first to admit that their project is small. They have difficulties marketing the product and must be tempted to wonder if it's all worthwhile.



Anyone who gives you a cup of cold water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.

One pastor told me how his church members used to criticise his social outreach programme because it did not bring many people into the church. So what was the point of it?

This is an important question. why is mission to the whole person important? What is the proper motive for such outreach? My experience in Brazil taught me that the only real motive is to reflect the way of Jesus.

Lesslie Newbigin wrote: "I think that the deepest motive for mission is simply the desire to be with Jesus where he is. We want his prayer to be answered: 'Where I am there shall my servant be'. We long that he shall see the travail of his soul and be satisfied. That, I deeply believe, is the true motive."

A cup of cold water may not appear to be much. I saw much more than that given in the name of Christ by church and mission society in Brazil. I recognise that those gifts, even if small in the light of the whole need, are deeply valued by Jesus and important to the mission of the whole church to the whole world. ●

Baptist minister **David Morris** is in leadership at South Parade, Leeds

Personal and corporate revolution

"How long will you be in Brazil?" the smiling Brazilian asked.

"Two tables." I replied.

In Portuguese, "month" and "table" are similar words. My mistake was one example of how foolish one can feel. For both my visits overseas, I had tried to prepare linguistically but I often stood smiling stupidly and unable to participate in the simplest conversation.

Suddenly missionary needs came alive and I understood the nurse, who leaves her home church with high hopes but feels spiritually dry and unfed because she understands so little of what is said. I began to enter into the feelings of isolation which people in a different culture feel, particularly when they are sick, tired, or discouraged.

While I was in Zaire, one of my children broke her finger and the gas cooker nearly blew up! I knew nothing about these events and returned feeling guilty that I had not been with my family at these times.

So I understood the pain of separation from loved ones, the concern over one's children and the great joy of some simple reminder that one is not forgotten by those at home.

My sabbaticals have given me a growing commitment to support those whom we send out.

One benefit of an overseas sabbatical is that it broadens one's own pastoral experience. I have had the enormous privilege of listening to mission personnel, national church leaders and other Christians as they have unburdened their hearts.

I have shared and prayed with people concerning such issues as spiritual dryness, cultural misunderstanding, family concerns, disappointment, and so on. Such experiences have greatly sharpened my own pastoral awareness.

On a personal level, the gains have been enormous:

- **Missionaries, once just names, have become good friends.**
- **An appreciation of the world church.**

On a corporate level, the church has received:

- **A vision for the world and the desire to send people from the church into the world.**
- **A deeper commitment to those folk who are sent out and to the whole work of mission.**
- **A pastor whose life has been revolutionised.**

There are difficulties involved in having a sabbatical overseas but my experiences have taught me that, if every minister was personally exposed to some area of BMS work, it would revolutionise our denomination and give BMS far more resources in money and personnel for our mission to the world.

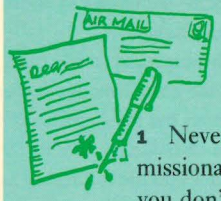
TAKE 2

Take Two – a resource for church leaders and workers

resources for leaders

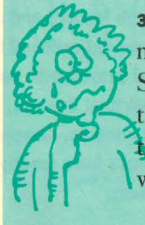
THE MISSION SUPPORTER'S CHARTER

TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD NEVER DO!



1 Never write to your Link missionary too often. After all you don't want to bore them, and if everybody wrote, there's no way they could reply to all the letters.

2 Never think that anything is too humble to give to a missionary. After all they are incredibly poor, having given up everything for the sake of the gospel, and they welcome cast-offs. Dried, once-used teabags are a particular favourite.

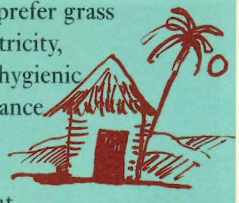


3 Never think that missionaries have down times. Since God has called them to their work, and he will equip them, nothing's going to go wrong for them – ever!

4 Never think that missionaries need spiritual and pastoral input. They walk so close to God they don't need other people to minister to them.

5 Never think that missionaries are just like you and me. They really are super-spiritual people, on a different level. They never have any difficulty finding time or motivation for prayer, and a Bible verse springs to mind in every situation.

6 Never picture a missionary and family living in a solidly built house, with a lot of mod cons. They much prefer grass huts, and find electricity, water supply, and hygienic conditions a hindrance to their work.



7 Never think that missionaries worry about their children – their upbringing, education, health, spiritual development and general well-being. Why should they worry about their children? They're in God's hands and there's nothing they can do.

8 Never doubt that all missionaries get on wonderfully well with their colleagues and other missionary personnel. Being a missionary suddenly changes the way you relate to other people, and people no longer rub you up the wrong way.

9 Never think that missionaries get frightened, particularly those in war zones or dangerous places. Being a missionary gives you an extra ring of confidence.

10 Never ask yourself: Is God asking me to do something different with my life, maybe to serve him overseas? You know he knows you too well, and he'd never ask you to do that . . . would he?

Think on these things . . .

Challenge to the way we think – and act

Individually or in your house-group consider how these statements leave a lot to be desired! Each make a list of three things you can do to honour the missionary sent out from your church, or your Link missionary.

List all the commitments you have made, (or you could make) for:

- **This week**
- **This month**
- **This year**
- **The next five years**
- **Longer**

Can any of these commitments be renaged?

What would happen if you pulled out of them?

What, if any, are the advantages of long-term commitments, particularly in Christian service?

If you decide it's a good idea, how can you encourage your congregation, young and old, to consider long-term commitment – to anything?

In particular, how can you challenge new Christians who have come from a background of an "instant" society to appreciate the value of long-term commitments in Christian service?

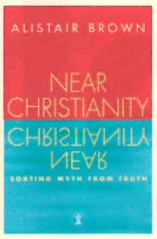
Ask yourself:
How many missionaries has your church sent out in the past 10 years?

How many missionaries from other countries has your church received?

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT
Some ministers in a Baptist Association have got together and have fixed up a two week overseas visit in association with BMS to give them some mission inspiration. How about encouraging your minister or church leaders to do the same?

Near Christianity

by Alistair Brown
Hodder & Stoughton £6.99



It's the first Christian book I've read for a long time that's driven me back to the Bible. Not that it's full of errors! Quite the opposite, in fact. It's written for evangelicals who, over the years, if not centuries, have added to the faith principles and practices that according to the author do not have any basis in scripture. Hence the reason of referring back to the Bible to check this out and what an interesting investigation that has been.

Areas under fire include: guidance, prayer, sin, quiet times and daily Bible reading, the mid-week prayer meeting, trials and temptations, vision.

Evangelicals could be accused of being the Pharisees of the 20th century by adding to the basis of Christian faith and belief. I think, the author has a strong case.

Above all, he doesn't criticise for the sake of it but affirms the individual Christian's response and relationship with God as being of prime importance. The crunch comes when the church tries to impose some of these add-ons, which appear to be based on scripture but are, in fact, unbiblical.

If ever there was a book to shake the average Christian out of complacency, this one's it.

The author has, I think, overlooked some issues that still cause evangelicals some trouble: namely worship, preaching only a gospel message, church authority, the power and preaching of the Word as opposed to the power of the Spirit.

Perhaps that could be the next book.

Nevertheless, this is a book I need to read again and carry out some spring cleaning in my own evangelical cupboard.

Andy Smith

Atholl Centre

A CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTRE SITUATED AT THE HEART OF SCOTLAND

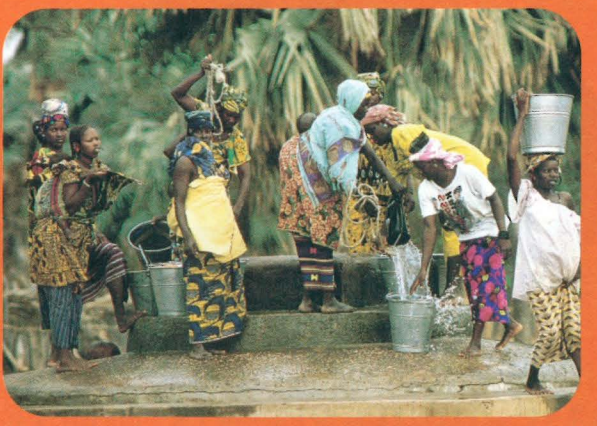
Being in the HEART OF THE HIGHLANDS the Atholl Centre is the ideal location for any type of conference or training event, church retreat or as a holiday location for individuals, families or groups. Beautiful scenery all year round, with plenty to see and do within the area . . .

★ Accommodation for up to 50 guests ★
★ High standard of catering and comfort ★
★ Our dining room can cater for up to 80 ★
★ Coach parties welcome ★

For brochure and information on courses available, write to:

ATHOLL CENTRE, Atholl Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5BX
Telephone: 01796 473044

ACTION CARD



Water

Grey wet winter days may not fill us with as much joy as bright sunny summer ones but at least the rain usually ensures an adequate water supply.

Water covers three quarters of the earth's surface but only three per cent of the total mass is fresh water and a very small part of this is accessible. Much water is trapped deep underground or in polar ice caps. Getting adequate supplies of water that is fresh, clean and safe to use for drinking, cooking and washing, is one of the most pressing problems that faces humanity.

In many developing countries the provision of safe water is the greatest cause for concern in people's lives. Kemde Ouedraogo, a 50-year-old woman from Burkino Faso walks five hours a day to get water. She has lost five children in infancy to water-borne diseases.

As Kemde says: "We have to get up long before dawn. All night my heart is heavy with the lack of water. It is the worst problem of our lives. While we are walking our necks hurt, our hearts beat fast all the way. Even when we are not walking our shoulders, the smalls of our backs, our breastbones, all hurt."

Her full water pot, carried on her head, weighs 30lbs.

IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THE PROVISION OF SAFE WATER IS THE GREATEST CAUSE FOR CONCERN IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.

The women on this month's Action Card are, doubtless, happy that they have access to clean water. But imagine carrying those huge buckets back and forth to your home whatever the distance, perhaps several times a day. Please send a card of support to Obert Zumbwa, c/o Jansson, Midlands Farm, Box 350189, Chilanga, Zambia (43p stamp) for the villagers in Chipapa, Zambia, who have implemented an imaginative and sustainable agricultural programme using donkeys to carry water drawn from a water hole they dug in a nearby valley bottom, up the hillside to their homes and crops.

TAKE 2

A whole new cultural ball

THEY'RE HALF-WAY THROUGH THEIR ASSIGNMENTS AND, AS **SAM GIBSON** REPORTS, THEY'VE PLENTY TO TELL THE FOLK BACK HOME

Chickens, temperamental toilets, caterpillars and curried goat – all part of normal daily life for those on a BMS 28:19 Action Team.

This year's Action Teams are now half way through their assignments and are quickly building a library of anecdotes and stories to share with churches when they return to Britain for their tour later in the year.

The chicken comes courtesy of the Thailand team. Following orientation, the team were split into pairs to work on different assignments, swapping after five weeks. Sarah Teague and Jennie Gilmore started off in Ban Nong, a large Christian Karen hill tribe village 2,000ft in the mountains. They were quickly introduced to tribal life which for Jennie, involved preparing dinner – starting with a live chicken . . .

At Ban Nong, the girls taught English and sport at the local school which caters for 400 children. They also helped harvest rice and cut banana leaves!

The first Thailand assignment for Leigh Cummings and Ellen Armstrong was at the New Life Centre, a refuge near Chiang Mai for young girls rescued from brothels or in danger of being sold into prostitution. They managed to communicate with the girls – all aged 14 to 21 – with a mixture of limited Thai, some English and a lot of charades, befriending them and teaching English.

They also spent some time in the House of Love, a hospice for girls dying of AIDS, and at Agape, an orphanage for babies with HIV or AIDS. The team often found it difficult to bear the injustice of these girls' situations, but they have also been greatly blessed to see many discover new life in Christ.

This month, the four girls are reunited as they move to the Bangkok area to work together with BMS colleagues Geoff and Chris Bland.

The Nepal team thought they would be experiencing the trials of mission life even before their arrival when they discovered their airline was cancelling flights without warning.

Many passengers, who like the team, were travelling via Delhi, spent days trapped in the airport waiting for flights. With no visa to enter India they were not permitted to leave the confines of the international airport.

Wherever they go, a mass of excited black children follow them calling "khiwa" (white person)

However, after much prayer, the team's flight not only left as scheduled, but they arrived in the country two hours early – something unheard of in Nepal. The team, Chris Peacock, Ed Dix, Emma Ryan and Helen Schwier, have been leading children's work at a United Mission to Nepal conference, teaching English at a school in the village of Galyang and working in churches and youth groups in Tansen and Butwal.

For temperamental toilets we feature the Zimbabwe team, although they are counting their blessings – they say they are lucky to even have a toilet! Emma Boswell, Fiona James, Alex Jones and David Cobby have been working in churches across the country. Wherever they go, a mass of excited black children follow them calling "khiwa" (white person). In some villages, they are the first white people to have visited in years. The team are involved in most church ministries such as home visits, leading Bible studies, preaching and youth work. In the first home Alex and Emma visited, they sat through a long conversation in the Ndebele language, between a church leader and a woman. At the end, the leader turned to them and explained that the woman used to be heavily involved in Satan worship, had her husband poisoned, and "would they like to share some words". They call it "in at the deep end"!

The Brazil team – Sarah–Jo Baldwin, Esther

game

Potts, Catherine Ley and Laura Williams – are based in Sao Bernardo in southern Brazil, working with 13 churches.

Soon after arrival they set off to Sao Caetano, a poor area, to help renovate an old house bought to convert into a permanent building for a new church which had been meeting in a home.

As all four girls are musical, everywhere they go they are asked to sing, often in Portuguese. They find this an excellent form of communication and the bonus is that it is not dependent on an accurate knowledge of the language.

In the UK, James Nhatarikwa from Zimbabwe has been trying to tempt his team mates – Kimia Cunningham from Jamaica, Polly Cordell from England and Dilshan Edirisinghe from Sri Lanka – to sample his baked caterpillars! They're not impressed and he hasn't managed to get them to eat any yet!

The team have been leading the Get Real roadshow around Britain for young people, and have been on assignment at churches leading meetings, youth groups, Sunday schools and making presentations.

Based at a church in Portimao, Portugal, are Liz Tedbury, Charlotte Newson, James Gardiner and David Bullen. They have been involved in youth work, children's clubs, setting up a drop in centre, schools work, drama, mothers and toddlers group, Bible studies at a bird sanctuary, language study and church meetings.

They have also set up a youth ministry outside of the church building. Evangelical churches are regarded with suspicion, making it difficult for people to enter a church building, even for a social event.

To combat this, the team have set up A Ponte (The bridge) in a shop rented by the church. They hope this group will continue running once their time in Portugal is over.

In Malta, Darrell Eaton, Mhairi McKie, Catherine Crump and Simon Church have been trying to generate their own opportunities, including organising a roadshow, a drop-in youth centre, youth service and work with the under–privileged in prisons and drug rehabilitation centres. There are very few protestant Christians in Malta, 95 per cent of the people claim to be Catholic although very few have an active faith.

The team will be mainly involved in forms of outreach and evangelism while in the country. Their focus is mainly on young people although they've already reached a much wider audience than this – the whole of Malta, in fact, speaking about their faith for an hour on a Catholic radio station!

According to the Jamaica team, curried goat is quite nice but Matt Swann misses cornflakes – green bananas for breakfast aren't quite the same. The team were divided into pairs shortly after arrival but come together again this month.

Matt and Ruth Bidnell were based near Montego Bay, working for a small church and in local schools. Ruth taught a class of sevens and eights while Matt taught science to teenagers – a daunting task as he had no previous experience of this.

Meanwhile, Jo Chidgey and Steve Thomson worked in St Mary's, to the east of the island. Jo taught a remedial class in a school each morning whilst Steve did administrative work. They were also involved in the life of a large church and led Sunday services.

The overseas teams return to Britain in April, joining with the UK team to prepare for the national tour. Every team member will be armed with stories of radically changed lives, views and ambitions – and sometimes those stories may even be about other people! ●

prayer focus

worldwide

To complement the BMS Prayer Guide, **Sam Gibson** brings news from BMS colleagues around the world

Americas

Peter and Sheila Brewer

TRINIDAD

Peter and Sheila travel to Trinidad this month from Britain to carry out an in–depth and comprehensive investigation of a proposed new Institute for Pastoral Teaching, a trip postponed from October 1996.

Over a period of a couple of months, they aim to visit every church of the Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago (BUTT) to contact as many potential pastoral candidates as possible, to talk to every pastor and to discuss all related issues with the Baptist Union Executive Committee.

Together with a representative from BUTT, they seek to establish the level of support for the project which will be forthcoming from each church and to assure themselves of the full support of the present pastors.

They also want to assess the number and quality of candidates for the Institute. The BUTT has only about 21 churches so it is necessary to be sure it can actually sustain the plans which it wants to put into effect.

Please pray:

- for wisdom for Peter and Sheila and for the BUTT as they seek the way forward for the future training of pastors in Trinidad
- for unity of purpose amongst the churches and leaders of BUTT
- that the plans for this project may come to fruition
- for safe travel for Peter and Sheila

brazil

David and Sheila Brown

David has taken on the interim pastorate of one of the oldest churches in Rio, the Fourth Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro. Previously the church had gone through a difficult period with no pastor remaining more than two years and it had been labeled as a difficult church to pastor.

Since David took over, he has been blessed to baptise several people and many members who were disheartened have returned to regular worship. There is a joyful spirit in the air.

Please pray:

- **for growth at the Fourth Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro and for a continued and growing spirit of unity and support among the members**

Africa

Mark and Andrea Hotchkin

GUINEA

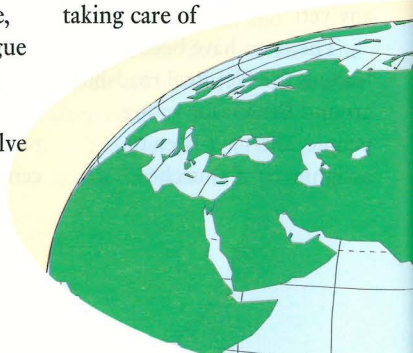
Mark and Andrea are seconded to the Leprosy Mission and work with the Swiss Evangelical Missionary Alliance in Macenta.

Mark is involved in rehabilitation and reconstructive surgery, a difficult task because the referral system for the programme is not very effective – it aims to treat 50 patients per year but last year managed only eight.

The new National Director of the Leprosy Programme, Dr Cherij, a former colleague of the Hotchkins, hopes to overhaul the entire programme. This will involve retraining all doctors in the programme at the hospital in Macenta over the next year.

Dr Cherij has also asked Mark to demonstrate the possibilities for reconstructive surgery so that people can be referred from all over Guinea.

Andrea works for three and a half days a week at the government hospital as well as taking care of



their daughter, Ruth. She works with women requiring surgery to correct post birth problems.

Please pray:

- for Dr Cherij, for wisdom and good results as he seeks to overhaul the Leprosy Programme
- for the referral system to be made effective
- for the Hotchkins as they seek to integrate into local society in Macenta and learn the Malinke language

Asia

Helen Johnston

NEPAL

Helen has been undergoing language training and orientation (LOP) since her arrival in Nepal in July last year. She says her first impressions are of a country of contrasts.

She speaks of the contrasts between prosperity and suffering, beauty and pollution, old and new, a family struggling to survive in a shack close to a large modern house, a flower growing beside an open sewer . . . the list goes on.

Despite the differences, Helen has been made to feel very much at home by BMS and UMN (United Mission to Nepal) colleagues.

Until late December, she lived with a Nepali family in Kathmandu to help her to learn the language, then in December, Helen moved to Amp Pipal to begin working at the hospital there. Amp Pipal is a small village perched on a ridge in central Nepal.

The journey from Kathmandu was an experience for Helen consisting of a four hour minibus journey followed by a seven and a half hour walk, with porters carrying the baggage, through torrential monsoon weather.

Helen is working as General Practitioner Surgeon for the Gorkha Project at Amp Pipal hospital. There she is picking up responsibility for providing care for both in and out patients, surgery and training other staff.

Please pray:

- for Helen as she settles into a new place and a new job
- for continued progress in language study
- for health and safety, especially while travelling
- for good relationships with new colleagues

Corinna Woods

NEPAL

Corinna has been in Dullu, western Nepal since June where she is seconded to the staff of a new sixth form. Corinna helps to prepare teenagers to become primary school teachers with the aim of improving the low standard of education in village schools and the status of primary teaching in particular.

Corinna lives at the school in a room partitioned to provide a kitchen and bedroom. During the rains however, the roof has been leaking leaving the mud floor soaking and the rest of the house mouldy; she has been growing mushrooms and beansprouts inside.

Teaching in the past consisted of dictating answers to possible examination questions, but Corinna has changed this. Thus some students, who have never been been actively taught before, have been quite mutinous, demanding dictation and making lessons difficult.

Corinna trains students in teaching English, health and physical education, takes them for teaching practice, visits primary schools to help and encourage the teachers and teaches a set English course to a class of children. This class is the biggest challenge with up to 100 children a day.

Corinna's latest initiative is to take student teachers on an educational visit to Butwal, Kathmandu and Pokhara – the first time the students will have seen their own capital – which will expose them to good schools so that they have a reference point to aim for.

Please pray:

- for speedy repairs to Corinna's home and for her health while living in a damp house
- for encouragement and energy for Corinna in her difficult yet extremely worthwhile role
- for inspiration to aim high for students on the educational visit

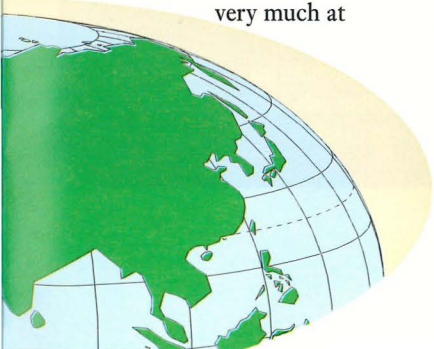
brazil

Colin and Marcia Pavitt

Colin and Marcia were joined recently by a multi–national building team to help the congregation at Eldorado to build houses as part of a social project. Although the buildings measure just 16ft by 12ft they are much better than current living conditions for many. Their church is growing steadily with baptisms, new members and a group of teenagers beginning to attend. This has led to plans for a new youth club. English lessons run by Colin and Marcia with 25 students each week have brought two more girls into the church.

Please pray:

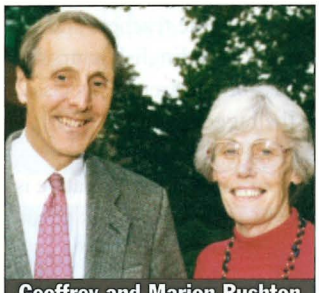
- for God's blessing on the people who will be offered new homes
- for continued growth of the congregation, for God to touch those attending the church who are not yet Christians



prayer focus

worldwide

Europe



Geoffrey and Marion Rushton

HUNGARY

Geoffrey and Marion arrived in Budapest in October 1996 via the BMS Barnabas Project, a scheme set up in 1996 to allow single people, couples and teams of all ages to volunteer their gifts and skills on short-term service.

Budapest is the first city centre in which the couple have ever lived so there are many adjustments to lifestyle to be made, although they are finding the Hungarian Christians eager and available to help in whatever way possible.

Geoffrey and Marion are volunteers teaching English at the Baptist Theological Academy which houses 200 eager students preparing to work as pastors, music specialists and lay workers in the churches.

They are keen to learn English in order to gain access to a wide range of books and talks.

It is proving tiring work settling into a new home, in a new environment, away from family and friends, on top of which they are preparing appropriate learning materials and methods. But Geoffrey say they have been fortified by the love, practical support and prayers of many.

Please pray:

- that the Rushtons would settle quickly to their new work and environment
- for good friendships to be built up quickly among colleagues and students.

Roger and Nikki Pearce

ALBANIA

Roger and Nikki are hoping to move this month to the village of Kruje, 39km north of Tirana.

They are encouraged by the fact that their closest neighbours will be a British couple. The Pearces have been in Albania for a year and during that time have been involved in language study. From January they will continue language study for part of their time.

They will also be working on a mountain village project which aims to improve the economic base of the eight villages of the Cudhi Commune. The project also focuses on the education of the Cudhi Commune children and the nutrition and health of its people, especially women and young children.

Roger plans to spend this next year building relationships in the villages, visiting the schools in the area, encouraging teachers, assessing needs, sharing and exchanging teaching methods and offering English as a foreign language.

Nikki plans to establish relationships with midwives and nurses working in the villages and to share their experiences of working in a rural setting.

This should allow her to assess the local midwifery needs and to see how best to develop plannned ante and post natal care.

Please pray:

- for a quick and easy move to a new home and that James, Roger and Nikki's young son will settle quickly
- for the development of good relationships with neighbours and colleagues
- for continued progress in language study
- for the new work they will be involved in

EFFECTIVE PRAYER SUPPORT

BMS colleagues around the world often testify to the power of prayer in their work. They appreciate the support of those who pray regularly. If you would like to pray specifically and personally for personnel, please ask about the BMS Prayer Letter service. Telephone Diane Hayward on 01235 512077.

checkout

Arrivals

Ian and Pauline Thomas from Carcassonne
Peter and Valerie Harwood from Kathmandu

Departures

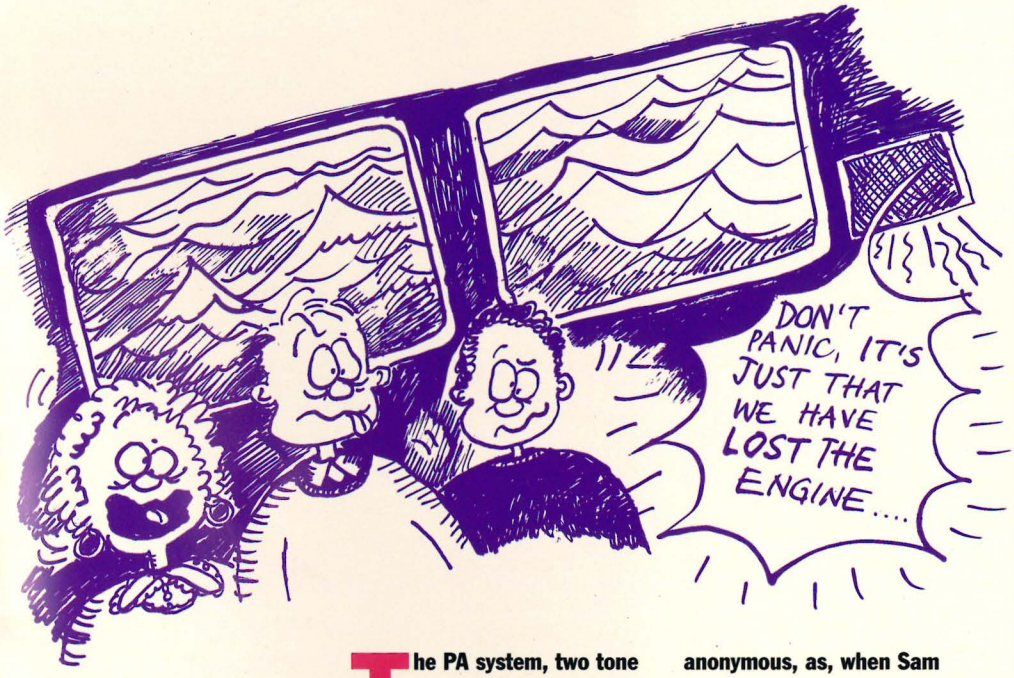
Tony and Judith Sykes to Vellore
Martin and Katrina Butterworth to Kathmandu
Margaret Gibbs to Surket
Keith and Barbara Hodges to Lisbon
Alex and Irene Black to Chiang Mai
Simon and Karen Collins to Lisbon

Overseas Visits

Sian Williams to Albania
John Passmore to Albania
Derek Rumbol to South Africa
Phil Marsden to Romania
Martin Pearse to Brazil

Don't panic

or how are the mighty fallen!



ILLUSRATION SARAH PRENTICE

The PA system, two tone "bing bonged", crackled to life and the stewardess' opening words in a rather high pitched voice were "Don't panic". My own reaction would be to add 'Captain Mainwaring' in true Jonesie (Corporal Jones) fashion but you can imagine the reaction from most of the passengers.

Sitting with any group in an airport departure lounge, someone is bound to start telling travel horror stories and I can usually add several of my own. Stories of plane tyres bursting on landing, funny smells in the cabin and doors which won't close properly come thick and fast.

It's not really funny though, when you lose a suitcase, as one Baptist pastor from Belgium can testify. For obvious reasons he wishes to remain anonymous, as, when Sam arrived in a tropical country for a week long conference, his case did not. His clean clothes, his wash kit and papers, all in that case. I leave the scene to your imagination! He was pleased to return home to a change of clothes but he has still not been reunited with his case.

There is a story about a person travelling to Paris. At the airport check in they had two cases and asked for one case to be sent to Cairo and the other to New York. The puzzled and horrified airline employee said that was not possible as the ticket was to Paris. 'Why ever not' replied the passenger, 'You did it last week!'

Anyway, back to the announcement. As we checked in for our jet foil crossing from Ostend to Ramsgate we noticed two things. One, the wind was getting stronger, and, two, there seemed to be a lot of loud, boisterous people on that flight. That's what they call a form of transport which is neither boat, hovercraft nor real plane. Passengers still have to fasten seat belts and stewardesses go through the safety procedure before the craft rises up on fins and 'flies' through the tops of the waves.

Once in our seats we seemed to be surrounded by people talking loudly about the clubs they had visited, the members of the opposite sex they had met and the amounts of alcohol they had consumed, right up until shortly before the departure. However, as the journey progressed and we left the shelter of the French coastline, the sea became less calm and in stead of flying over the tops of the waves, we hit a few. Faces turned green. Conversation ceased. Those little plastic lined bags were reached for and our loud neighbours were loud no longer. Then it happened. We ploughed into a very big wave, the spray from the encounter flew right over the entire vessel and the engine stopped. Instead of the roar of the jet pushing us along there was silence as we slowly sunk down from the foils to become a conventional craft, without power, bobbing in the middle of the channel. It was then that we were implored not to panic. Unlike Dad's Army, the stewardess had a second line to her announcement. Her full message was, 'Don't Panic, it's just that we have lost the engine.' To which my companion said, 'Well that was very careless, let's hope we find it again - soon!'

JOHN PASSMORE

John Passmore is the BMS Europe Representative and was a missionary in Bangladesh for ten years.

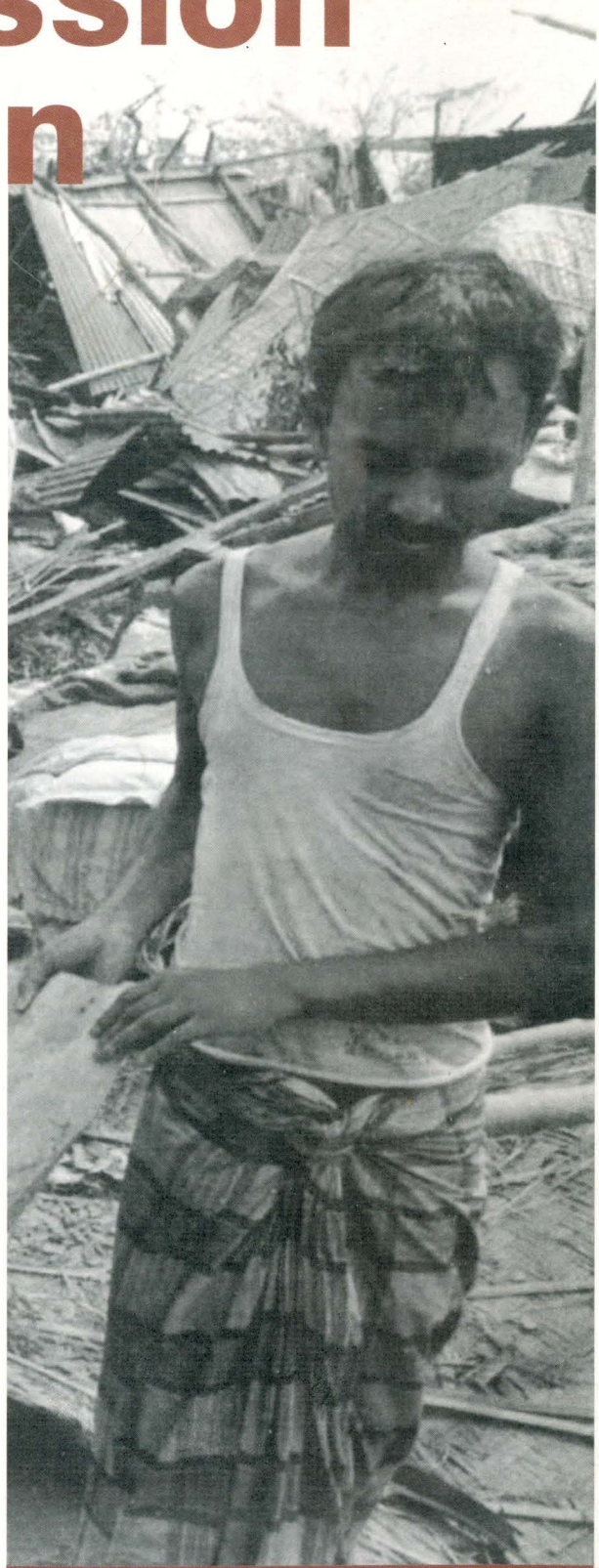
Compassion in Action

When a disaster strikes there's no time to arrange an appeal for funds to help the victims. It's too late. The money was needed there and then.

That's why the BMS have their own Relief Fund. Every year an appeal is put out to people like yourself to give to this fund, and that's all. We don't waste money on advertising and glitzy campaigns: every penny goes to help people who are in no position to help themselves.

Since the BMS Relief Fund was set up in 1968 over £775,000 has been given to help people suffering from drought, flood, war, hurricane, epidemic, crop failure and other calamities.

And it will carry on sharing the love of Jesus with these people provided the money is there to enable it to do so. We need your money now so that when disaster strikes, and that could be tomorrow, we can step in to relieve suffering straight away with no fuss and no additional appeals.



How to Give to BMS Relief Fund

1. You can give directly, by tearing off or copying the slip below and sending it to BMS together with your donation.
2. You may also give via a special offering in your church for the Relief Fund.
3. Alternatively your church treasurer will have special Relief Fund gift envelopes, which you can put in your church's offering at any time of the year.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY
PO Box 49, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8XA
Telephone: (01235) 512077 Fax: (01235) 511265
E-Mail: 100626.1577@compuserve.com

BMS Relief Fund

Photo supplied by Associated Press

I would like my money to be used to show the love of God in a practical way. I have enclosed
£10 ☐ *£25* ☐ *£50* ☐ *£100* ☐ *£250** ☐ *Other* ☐ *for the BMS Relief Fund*
You can also covenant your monthly gift. If you wish to do so please tick. ☐

Name _____ *Address* _____

_____ *Postcode* _____ *Church* _____

**we can make this up to £333 reclaiming tax through Gift Aid*

March/April 1997

RECEIVED
- 4 -03- 1997
Baptist Theological Seminary Library
Prague
Czech Republic

mb

News around the world

Focus on Kathmandu

Action teams abroad

international

What kind of leadership?

Leadership and servanthood

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

BMS AT THE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 1997

WORLD MISSION EVENING 'WOULD YOU TAKE THAT RISK...?" WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL, 7.00 PM

SEMINARS: 'NOT THE BMS SEMINAR' LED BY ALISTAIR BROWN, 29 APRIL 4.15 AND 'TEN WAYS TO MAKE MISSION A HIGHER PRIORITY' 30 APRIL, 2.15

Come and meet BMS personnel

at the BMS stand on the Ground Floor of Central Hall Westminster

Richard Wells

Cath Mawson

Diane Hayward

Jim Clarke

THE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

MARCH/APRIL 1997

ISSUE - LEADERSHIP

contents

JAN KENDALL

It's usually in January that people reflect about new beginnings. Thankfully God is not tied to our calendars and schedules, and as his people we can rejoice at his leading all the while. This March/April edition of mh is a new beginning for me as Editor, although I've been working on mh as part of the team for several years. I'm thrilled with all the progress and transformation that has been achieved under Richard's editorship, and I know you are too, because you often write in or tell us face to face. Richard is now Dept. for Constituency Support Director. He'll still be in the background keeping a watchful eye on us, but he'll also be freer to pursue wider activities.

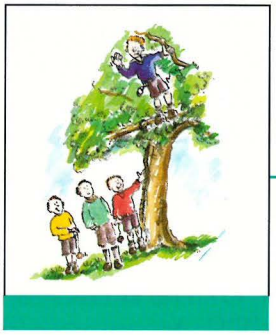
Mike Pilavachi also begins a new regular column with us this month. He pastors a congregation in Watford specially aimed at reaching young people, and leads the Soul Survivor team which runs a Christian festival for young people in the summer. We're thrilled to have him on board. Welcome Mike!

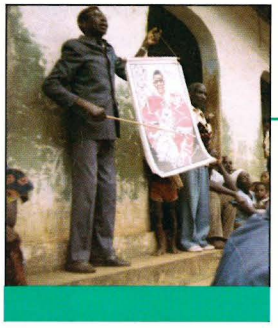
Meanwhile, I hope I will get to know more of you personally as the year progresses. Please say "hello" if you see me at the Assembly or elsewhere, or write in to introduce yourself or to comment on the magazine.

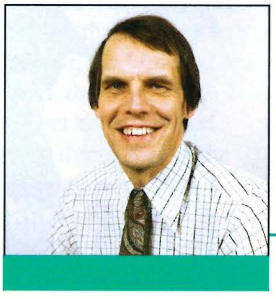
The features focus is on leadership this time, and for a change the Action Teams section will be looking at the Summer Action Team. That's as well as all our regular items.

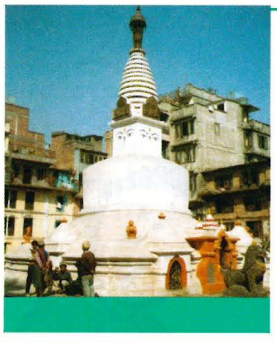
Thank you for your support. I am very conscious that it is God's mission we are involved in together, and we go forward in obedience to him as partners together.

Jan









FEATURES

4 **THE MARKS OF A LEADER**
Leadership qualities
Alistair Brown reflects

6 **ITINERANT LEADERSHIP**
Pastoring scattered people
David Kerrigan speaks from experience

8 **EQUIPPING OTHERS**
Training leaders
John Mellor tells of his role in Zaire

10 **MAKING LEADERS**
The story of an induction
Jan Kendall tells a heart-warming tale

NEWS

12 **BMS NEWS**
14 **WORLD NEWS**
16 **WORLD MISSION LINK**

REGULARS

18 **CENTRE SPREAD**
Profile: Martin Pearse, new BMS President

20 **OUR TOWN**
Kathmandu, Nepal

26 **PASTORS ABROAD**
Alan K Beavis visits Zimbabwe

28 **TAKE TWO**
Mission file of facts, figures and background

30 **ACTION TEAMS**
They're out at the sharp end

32 **MISSIONARY DIGEST**
Prayer points to support BMS colleagues

35 **JOHN PASSMORE**
The last word

COVER IMAGE
BERUWALA, SRI LANKA
FISHERMEN
PHOTO: RICHARD WELLS

CREDITS

General Director Alistair Brown

Managing Editor Richard Wells
Editor Jan Kendall

Regular Contributors Alistair Brown, Owen Clark, Sam Gibson, Jan Kendall, John Passmore, Richard Wells,

Design Editor Anthony Viney
Art Editor Sarah Prentice

Director for Missionaries Sian Williams (for enquiries about service)

Printed by Alden Colour Didcot, Oxfordshire

Subscription for 1997 *mh* and BMS Prayer Guide are published as a complate package. £6.00 through church *mh* distributors £7.98 by direct mail (inc p&p). Six issues of *mh* with three of BMS Prayer Guide plus free Annual Review. Overseas p&p at the rate applicable.

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the BMS

© Copyright 1997
Baptist Missionary Society

Missionary Herald the magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society

Address: PO Box 49, 129 Broadway Didcot Oxon OX11 8XA
Telephone: 01235 512077
Fax: 01235 511265
E-Mail, Editorial: bms_media@cin.co.uk
E-Mail, Other departments: 100626.1577@compuserve.com

Registered charity number 233782

NEXT ISSUE MAY-JUNE

China and Hong Kong
The church in an atheist state

The marks of a leader

ARE THERE CERTAIN QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS THAT DISTINGUISH A LEADER FROM A MERE FOLLOWER? **ALISTAIR BROWN** GIVES A PERSONAL OBSERVATION.

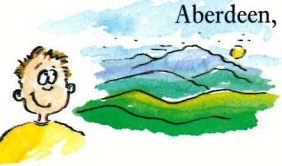
No-one questioned that Stewart was our leader. He wasn't the biggest, nor the best at everything, and he didn't have all the ideas. But he led. If he'd said we were going to war, we'd have marched off into the distance with him. Not bad for a nine-year-old.

Why did our gang follow Stewart? I don't know. There was no vote, not even any discussion. Stewart simply was our leader. We all knew it and all accepted it.

God's work needs leaders like that; clearly recognised and accepted. That quality of leadership has certain characteristics. Here are some of my marks of a true Christian leader.

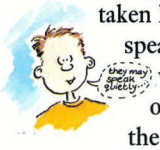
A person who's called. Whether there's been a voice from heaven, or just a deep certainty in the bones, leaders know they've been singled out by God. I have at least six other careers I'd love to do, but I can be at peace only with one. That doesn't mean leaders always recognise or accept their calling. Moses and Gideon were decidedly reluctant, and God had to kickstart them to get going. When you're called, you don't have a veto.

A person with vision. A manager administrates what is; a leader envisions what isn't yet. He doesn't see just a distant horizon, he sees beyond it, and works to take people to a future unknown to them. Six months after becoming minister of a city centre church in Aberdeen, I stood in the empty sanctuary



late one night and told the church secretary we'd have to think what we would do when the place was full. He raised his eyebrows, wondering if I'd been struck with pastoral madness. For over 90 years that building had been big enough, and more than once they'd trimmed its size. But a year later the church meeting agenda had an item on the problem of space. Another year on and we'd bought a 900 seat building, and made the move.

A person who speaks for God. They may speak very quietly, but they do so with authority. To talk on behalf of the Almighty is an awesome thing, not to be taken lightly by those who do the speaking or those who hear the words. The Bible commands obedience to God's leaders, for the logic of opposing them is to be at odds with God.



A person who sacrifices. Sacrifice is a normal part of the Christian life. Far from getting their own way, leaders model death to self-will. That's death to self-indulgence, and death to self-comfort. When others walk away, the leader stays with the job. When the bullets of criticism fly, the leader gets hit first. With Jesus teaching that the greatest must be the least, the leader doesn't even get to pick the plum jobs. Mother Teresa bent over the emaciated and diseased scrap of a dying man in the streets of Calcutta, wiping wounds that bled stinking puss. An American reporter watched her. 'Gee ma'am,' he drawled, 'I wouldn't do that for a million dollars.' 'Neither would I,' she said quietly.

A person who grows others. Some people's idea of strong leadership is the dominant ruler who commands policies for others to follow. That's megalomania. It's dangerous, weak and unbiblical. No leader has perfect judgment or all wisdom. The church

is a body in which each part depends on the others. What the good leader does is create a secure context so the most humble have confidence to share their thinking and use their gifts. That way God's voice is heard, God's work is done, and the kingdom expands.

People whose lives are marked with characteristics like these are leaders. As long as we simplistically take whoever volunteers, or pick on the person who's missed the meeting, God's people will be poorly led. Often we blame them for failure, but the fault is ours.

God never leaves his sheep without shepherds. They can be the unlikeliest of people, but the gift is in them. They're his leaders, and even if it's to death you'll follow them. ●

Alistair Brown is General Director of the BMS. He previously pastored two churches, in Livingston and Aberdeen.

The challenge of itinerant leader

BEING A PASTOR TO THE PEOPLE IN YOUR CHARGE IS ALWAYS A CHALLENGE. BUT, AS **DAVID KERRIGAN** EXPLAINS, IT'S EVEN MORE OF A CHALLENGE WHEN THEY LIVE HUNDREDS OF MILES APART.

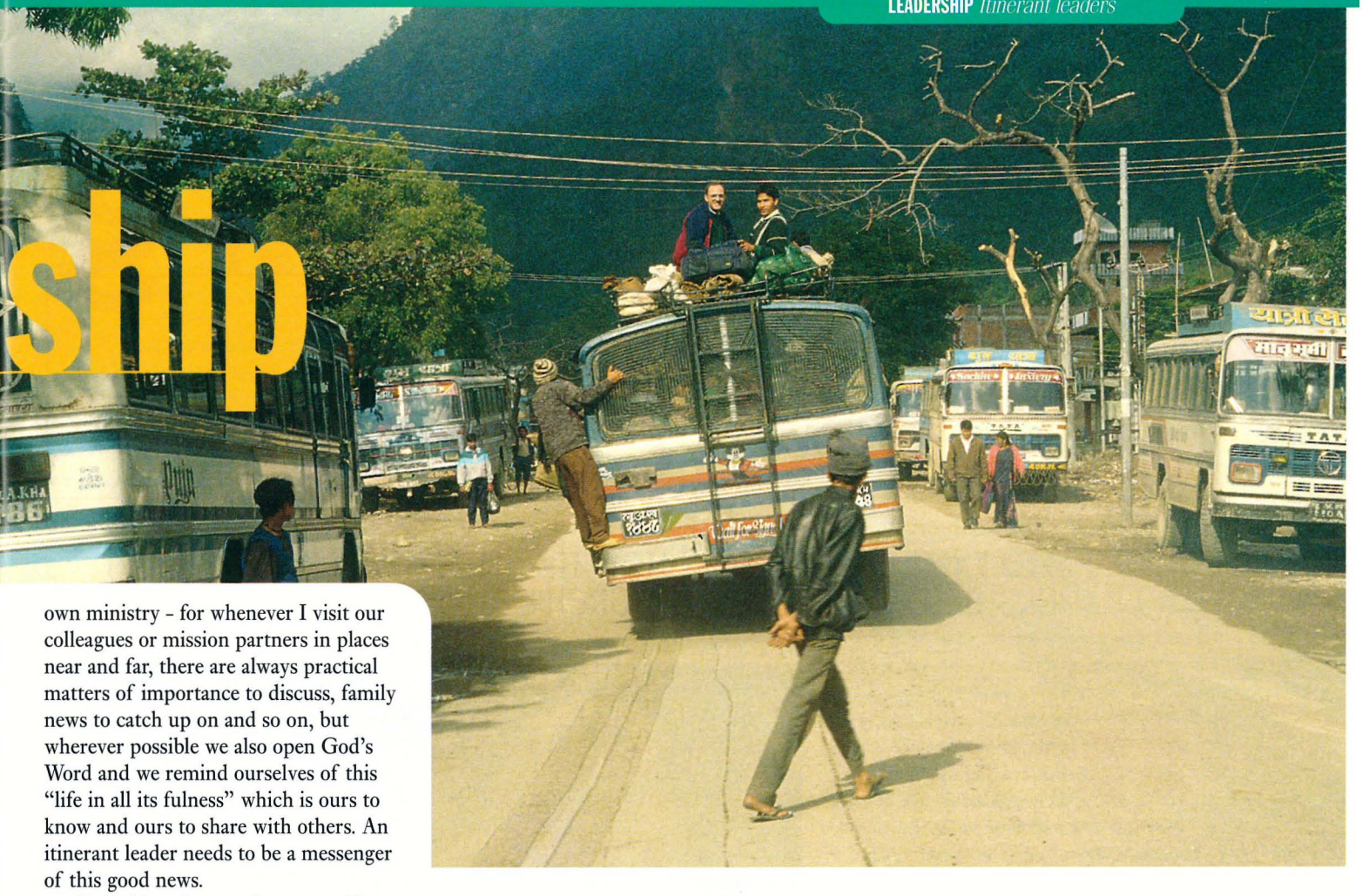
In many places in the world today the church is growing. Congregations are being started in new places and pastors are increasingly having to follow an itinerant lifestyle in order to serve these new churches. But along with the changes, there is also continuity. Recently, one of our missionaries was asked by an Asian colleague who I was, and knowing that a translation of 'Regional Representative' would have meant nothing simply said "well, if we were sheep, he would be the shepherd." That made my day! Whatever title I might have - it is as a pastor that I prefer to work. What, then, are the challenges of itinerant pastoral leadership?

Timotti Samujji springs to mind. Living in the south of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, Timotti embodies for me the itinerant leader. Born into a Muslim family in the 1930s he was converted in his 20s when his own lack of assurance came into sharp contrast with a sermon he heard preached. From 1983-94 he planted twelve new congregations in the south of Sumatra and is currently pastor of five with over 100 miles of rough tracks between some of them! Having spent a week with him, I can't say I know his secret, other than the giftedness God has given him, but I saw some principles working in his life which give me a clue as to how such a challenging ministry can be sustained.

Firstly, his ministry was gospel-centred. Most of these churches began when Timotti heard of a few isolated Christians living in a village, or in one case at a sugar-cane factory, and visited them to encourage them. Gradually, through Bible studies and worship times, others were converted, a small church was formed and elders appointed. In order to meet with these small groups, for several days we bounced along various tracks that really needed a more robust vehicle than his aging minibus, but on each occasion when we arrived and after we'd had our rice meal and rested, we worshipped and we preached and on one memorable day we baptised seven new Christians. They didn't always know that he was coming, but when they heard he had arrived, they rounded everyone up, and in the evenings we gathered together for worship and one of us preached.

In John 10:10, Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, life in all its fulness" and it was this 'life in Christ' that Timotti came to preach. I try to put this into practice in my

ship



own ministry - for whenever I visit our colleagues or mission partners in places near and far, there are always practical matters of importance to discuss, family news to catch up on and so on, but wherever possible we also open God's Word and we remind ourselves of this "life in all its fulness" which is ours to know and ours to share with others. An itinerant leader needs to be a messenger of this good news.

Something else struck me travelling with Timotti, and that was the love between himself and those he went to see in some far-flung place. Immediately on arrival there were kisses of greeting, laughter, refreshments, and a hundred other expressions of appreciation for his visit. In John 10:11 Jesus implies that a pastor will lay down his life for those he cares for, and whether it be pastoral ministry in one church or five churches, there has to be an element of sacrifice borne by the pastor and inevitably by the pastor's spouse and family. I could see from the effort involved in these visits that Timotti indeed made sacrifices to fulfil his responsibilities and the love with which he was received was in large measure his reward. There are times when any pastoral leader, itinerant or otherwise, has to force themselves to keep on keeping on. For Timotti the thought of hours more on a potholed track, or for myself as I squeeze on to yet another overcrowded bus or look up at another steep mountain track that God surely designed with only goats in mind, or yes, step onto another plane and away from the family for a few more weeks, the only motivation that will stand the test of time is the love of God which, once received, cries out to be passed on to others! An itinerant leader has to love what he does, even when the thought of another journey, which to others, seems attractive, makes you groan and long for your own bed!

And finally, in John 10:14 Jesus reminds us that a pastor will know his people and they will know the pastor! Now there's a thought! When I'm travelling I find that the real 'me' comes through! I can't (and won't) live with a mask for weeks on end. So whether I'm tired, or anxious or stressed - or fresh and full of energy and feeling gracious - it eventually shows! And it is the same in reverse - to be a pastor for people in one place or in places with many miles between, the requirement is the same, to know and be known. Timotti knew these people so well - he had dedicated them as infants, baptised many of them as they came to faith, officiated at their weddings and would one day conduct their funerals - if the message got through quickly enough! It would have been simple to forget details - after all he saw them infrequently and he saw so many others in between but I had a hunch that he shared a conviction that I have long held, that names are important. Its much deeper than that of course, but that's where it so often begins, for if my name is known its likely that my sorrows and my struggles, my joys and my hopes are remembered too. The itinerant leader needs a good memory (or a good notebook!).

In John 10:11 Jesus implies that a pastor will lay down his life for those he cares for

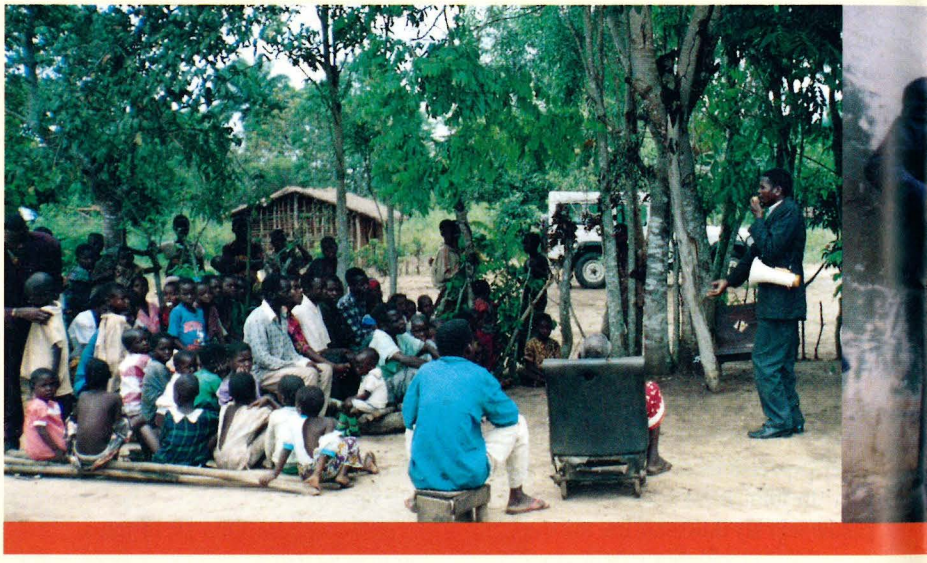
Timotti is still travelling the tracks of south Sumatra this week, still preaching, still loving, still getting to know his people - and still hoping that his van will keep going for just one more trip! ●

David Kerrigan is one of two BMS Regional Representatives for Asia. He is based in Sri Lanka, and has particular responsibility for Nepal, Thailand, and Indonesia.

Left: David shares in a baptismal service with Timotti in south Sumatra
Above: David travelling on the roof of a bus

Equipping others

JOHN MELLOR REFLECTS ON HOW HE STILL HAS A ROLE IN LEADERSHIP IN THE ZAIRIAN CHURCH



Our role in Zaire is concerned with facilitating and encouraging nationals in their ministries. We began work in Zaire following independence and have always deferred to nationals. Now that there are far fewer of us we tend to be highly valued by the nationals and they are often more ready to hear and act on our suggestion than when they thought there are plenty more where we come from.

One of my responsibilities is to be the eyes, ears and voice of the Centre to MEPA (Evangelical Ministry to the Pygmies of Africa). Pygmies tend to be conscious of their material rather than spiritual backwardness. So when I was asked to preach at one of their services, recently, I spoke on Matt. 6:19-33 "Seek ye first the kingdom of God... and all these things shall be added unto you.", the idea being to help adjust their thinking away from relying on handouts to looking to God who enables his people to help themselves. Many of them saw the point and want me to go round their cell groups preaching on these lines. The Centre wants potential leaders to be identified from amongst the Pygmies and is willing to help train them.

The first priority for a good leader is to recognise and respect those in leadership over him/her.

Another ministry for which I am the Centre's eyes, ears and voice is the Kinshasa Tent evangelism ministry. Revd Kamanda is a gifted evangelist with a vision for all the pastors of Kinshasa to be motivated for evangelism - at present many of them aren't - for them to mobilise their members to bring unsaved people to the meetings; to systematically cover Kinshasa, Zone by Zone (borough by borough) by evangelism campaigns. Revd Kamanda has the gift of an evangelist and the leadership quality needed to carry this through, as we have seen by the numbers of folk saved, this past year. My place is to encourage him, be sympathetic in listening to his needs and do what I can to help.

I am also responsible for the administration of funds to run Portable Bible Schools. The Centre wants every village and locality in Zaire - an estimated 80,000 people - to be churched and for this each church has to have a leader. Following two months of evangelism of villages, those converted select the person they want to be their lay pastor, and a Portable Bible School is set up. It comprises of 200 hours of basic teaching given to lay pastors over two months. My leadership 'from behind' is in checking that the Centre's funds are used as intended.

My desire is to be able to say what I heard a semi-retired missionary say once on a platform: "I don't know what I'll say when I stand before the Lord, for I didn't do anything, my African brethren did it all". I must not get in the way of a national exercising the leadership God has given him. But before one can usefully begin to train someone to take

over one's ministries one has to identify and be in a position to choose suitable people.

The first priority for a good leader is to recognise and respect those in leadership over him/her. Ultimately God must be every leader's Leader. We must never forget that a leader in God's Church is a shepherd, a carer of the flock of God. A pastor who recently heard a sermon on this said publicly afterwards that he was frightened. He is frightened because he hasn't seen his work in that way. He has said before that he is apprehensive about standing before God at the judgement.

Christian leaders must live a life of prayer and be committed students of the Word of God; visionaries who are true to their vision. They must be able to

communicate their vision to others and enthuse them for it. They must enable others to realise their gifts as opportunity arises, and give them scope themselves to receive vision from God and fulfil it. Neither an expatriate nor a national leader should consider themselves indispensable to God, and they should be ready to hand over or give place to someone else as necessary. But they will aim, as opportunity arises, to equip others to grow into responsible leadership roles. They must be single-minded in pursuit of fulfilling the vision God has given and fearless in opposing any evil which would block God's purposes. ●

John Mellor works with the International Centre for Evangelism, Kinshasa.

Pioneers still needed

JOY PIPER BELIEVES THE METHODS MAY HAVE CHANGED BUT THE QUALITIES NEEDED FOR IMAGINATIVE LEADERSHIP IN MOTIVATING PEOPLE TO WORLD MISSION ARE STILL THE SAME

The missionary secretary is dead. Long live the missions mobiliser and the action group!

It's not just terminology which has changed beyond recognition in recent years. Methods of promoting world mission have come a long way in a short time.

Faxes, e-mails, the Internet, and improved telecommunications via satellite links enable us to be in direct contact with many of our missionaries and up-to-date with what is happening right now, all over the world.

Cheaper travel means it is even possible to visit our missionaries. No longer do they work in the "far off lands" of yesterday. Now they can be reached in just a few hours.

But, sadly, some things don't change, and missionary concerns still remain a minority interest in many churches, with missionary events largely attended by those already converted to the cause.

Mobilising a congregation in the 1990's into active involvement with world mission is hard work! The job ad. could read something like this:

WANTED
People with energy and ingenuity
Risk takers
Prepared to make waves
Prepared to disturb the apathetic majority
Willing to exploit the possibilities the computer age has to offer
People with Carey's courage

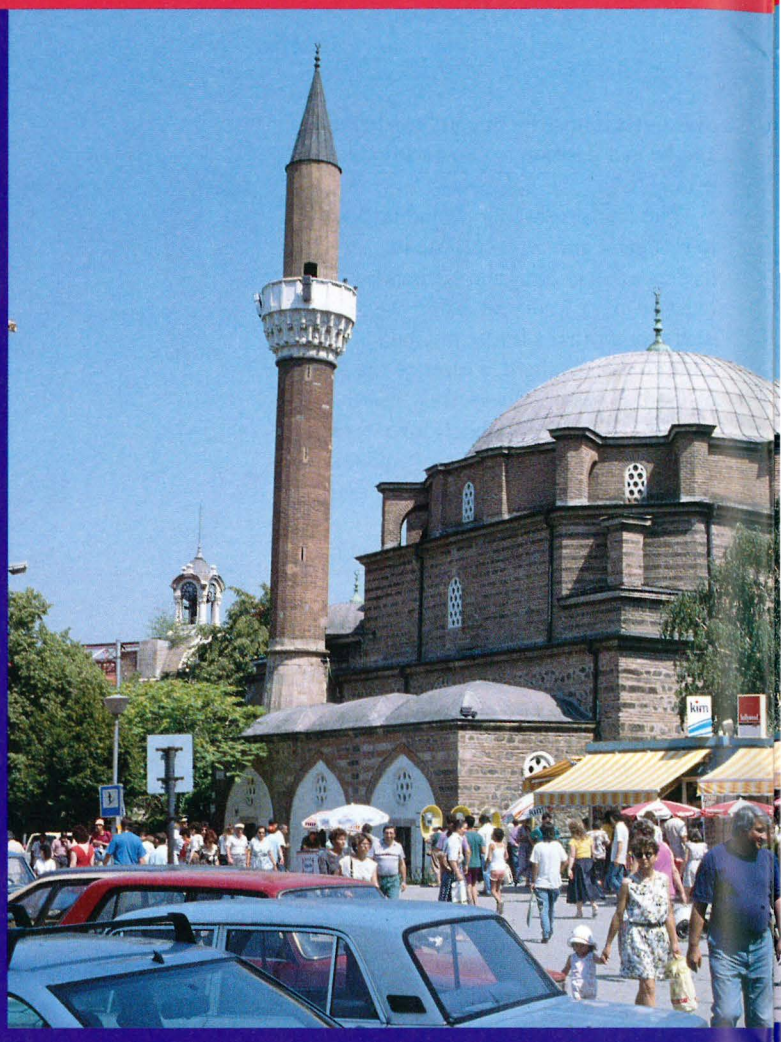
Ordinary people, not necessarily with any formal theological training or special qualifications, who are called by God and ready to give a lead, to spend time and imagination in raising support for missions, and communicating information about needs and opportunities. It is they who make it possible for the sending organisations to continue. It is they who are God's Power pack. ●

Joy Piper is now working on a practical handbook on world mission, to help people who are trying to develop a higher profile for overseas mission in the life of their church.

Making leaders

in a newly fledged country

JOHN AND HEATHER RINGROSE HAD NEVER BEEN ABROAD BEFORE, BUT GOD TOOK THEM UP ON A PROMISE THEY'D MADE. THEY FLEW TO BULGARIA TO WITNESS THE INDUCTION OF A FRIEND AND CHURCH LEADER. **JAN KENDALL** REPORTS

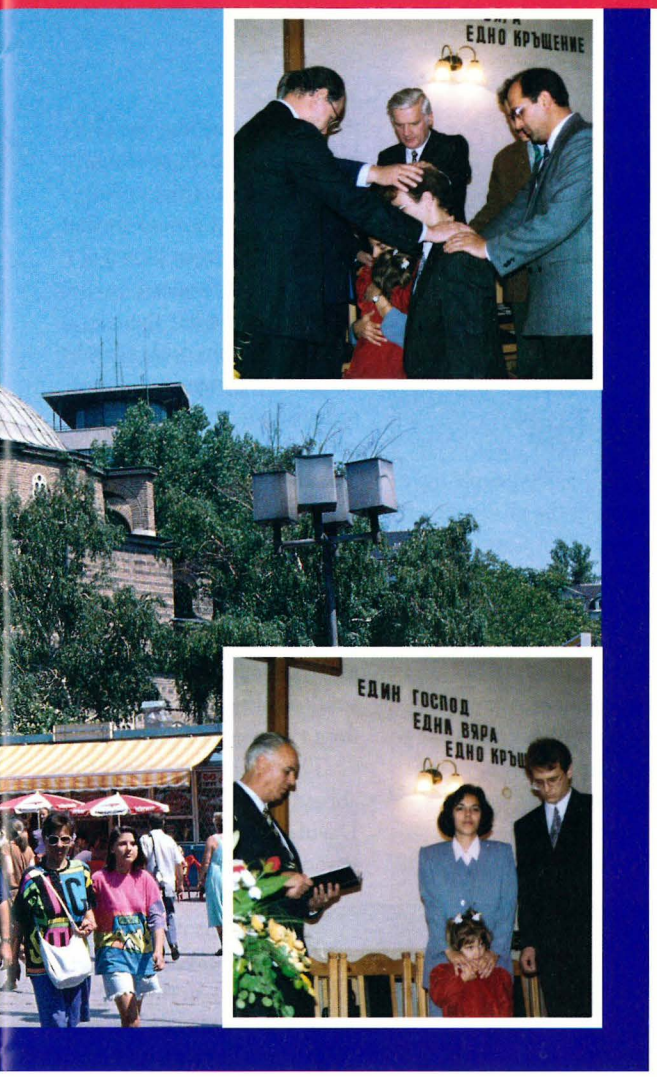


It was a ministerial induction that the congregation in Sofia Baptist Church never expected to happen. Theodor Oprenov (known to them as Tedi) had been dedicated in the church 26 years previously and had grown up there. When freedom from communism came in 1990, Tedi and his wife Dimitrina (or Didi) were among the first to enrol for theological training at Spurgeon's College, London. The Bulgarian church did not expect to ever see them again. But Tedi and Didi returned, and in November 1996 Tedi was inducted as assistant minister of Sofia Baptist Church.

For John and Heather Ringrose, members of Westbourne Baptist Church, the celebration over 1,000 miles away had great significance. They had befriended the Oprenovs whilst they were studying at Spurgeon's College. They learned something of their past too: how they had grown up under communist rule where oppression of all religions was the norm. As Christians, they and their families met in secret to worship and many pastors spent time in prison for so-called "crimes against the state". Didi ran a Sunday school in her parents kitchen, putting her whole family at risk. John and Heather were present at their ordination as ministers in Purley in June 1996. There they promised that one day they would visit them in Sofia, little realising God would actually ask them to honour this pledge.

At the end of October Didi rang John and Heather with the news that Tedi was to be inducted on 17 November, and could they be there?! Their immediate response was "Sorry, no, we can't make it." For they had no passports, no visas, no funds, and getting time off work would not be possible. But God had other plans, and before they knew it, their church decided to send them to Tedi's induction. Miraculously it seemed their passports were returned within five days, their visas came through, and they received donations from friends. John, a schoolteacher, remarked "My headmaster was more than willing to grant leave of absence for a trip of this nature". On 13 November rather nervously they set off not only on their first real trip abroad, but also on their first ever flight. John said," the Balkan Airways Tupolov T154 made it all the way there despite flapping its wings for a good part of the journey!" Arriving in Sofia, they were overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome they received from Sofia Baptist Church: "They made it clear how much our visit was an encouragement to them." During the actual induction service they translated the address, already given in German and Bulgarian, into English for them and told them, through interpreters, how much they valued their support in making the trip.

For the Bulgarian church were thanking John and Heather as representatives of everyone in Britain who had made possible the training of their new pastor. There was such joy in their hearts that Tedi and Didi had returned to their



homeland, and had not been lured by all the West had to offer.

The church in Bulgaria needs encouragement. Today there are 2,800 Baptists in Bulgaria in 55 churches. True, it has survived the communist regime. It has survived various buffetings from the state since then. But it is predominantly a tired and elderly church. It has elderly people who have got used to keeping themselves to themselves and not trusting anyone. Sofia as a city is worn out and people's faces reflect this. It is hard enough just being alive. What energy they have goes into family life; there are no reserves left to care for others. Financially Bulgaria is in a perilous state; unemployment is high; and inflation runs at 20% a week.

Gradually people are shaking off the effects of communism. But having lived for so long under its shadow has numbed the Bulgarians. It is difficult to get people to take the lead in anything in church life, even a housegroup. And so it is all the more remarkable that young people like Tedi and Didi Oprenov have sacrificed so much, and are prepared to become leaders in this dispirited nation. ●

Prayer Points

- **that as the younger generation turn to the Lord, the mistrust of the past will recede**
- **that God will raise up leaders to build a strong and significant church in this land**

INSET: Tedi being inducted as assistant minister at Sofia Baptist Church

Tedi ,Dimi and daughter

Mike Pilavachi

Want to know if you are a leader?

Are you going anywhere? **You cannot lead others to a place unless you are going there yourself. Recently I was cross with the Church I pastor as I felt they lacked discipline generally, and especially in areas such as personal prayer. As I was complaining to God about them, I realised that these were indeed my weak areas! I looked at my Church and I saw myself! They were following the example of their leader faithfully. They are good followers. The question is, where am I leading them?**

Look over your shoulder. Is anyone following you? **If not, it could be you are not a leader. Pastors pastor, teachers teach, elders eld and leaders lead! You are not a leader because you have been given the title, but because you fulfil the function. The title should be a recognition of the function.**

Are you a risk taker? **Churchill, Thatcher, Blair, Branson are all risk takers. Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel were all risk takers. To lead you must be willing to take risks. We have been told that faith is spelt RISK. This should not be limited to praying for healing, but also with regard to money, time, projects, people etc. William Carey said "Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God."**

Are you any good at delegating? **It has been said "Don't work harder, work smarter." What is the difference between the man who runs his own corner shop and Richard Branson? Often it is not the amount of hours they put in. The man in his shop is often open all hours, seven days a week. Branson works smarter. He recruits, trains, and deploys others to do the work with him and therefore runs a string of multi-million pound companies and not a corner shop. Too many Christian leaders are trying to do everything themselves. It is unbiblical and stupid. Hence the number of corner shop churches.**

Can you take rejection? **Secular management consultants have found that any leader will always have a minimum of five per cent of his or her followers disgruntled or unhappy. This is the case whatever he/she does, or indeed if they do nothing! Rejection is a fact of life for a leader. If they did it to Jesus, they will do it to you. The question is, how do we cope with rejection? Do we react in defensiveness, bitterness or self-pity, or do we respond as Moses did, with resolve and compassion?**

Are you a servant? **This is the one aspect of leadership which should set the Christian apart. Our model is Jesus who knew where he was going, "for the joy set before him." He had disciples who followed, was willing to take risks with bread, fish, wine etc, knew how to delegate and willingly faced rejection. The most magnificent leader. And yet a servant. He cared. He loved. He sacrificed. He laid down his life. For his friends. "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)** ●

Record year for stamps

Last year David Beaumont and his team of BMS Stamp Bureau volunteers sorted and trimmed their way through 1314 parcels of stamps, weighing a total of 1225 kg, estimated to have included 8,600,000 stamps. Organisers of the Stamp Bureau, which is the oldest charity stamp dealer in the UK, say that's more parcels than ever before. And when the stamps arrive, more of them have been trimmed already, says David, which means less work for him, and more stamps per kilo.

In 1996 David sold 900 kg of stamps for £1,679 and transferred 93 kg to the Great Britain department and 73 kg to the Foreign and Commonwealth department.

Richard Camp, in charge of the Great Britain department estimates two-thirds of his sales are by post, and one-third at stamp fairs. By selling stamps in this way he was able to raise more than £2,000 for BMS in 1996.

Douglas Neilson, who heads up the Foreign and Commonwealth department raised more than £2,600 from sales last year.

The sale of these and other collectibles such as coins and cards altogether brought in over £6,000 for BMS last year.

For everyone apart from David and his team, it's an effortless way of raising money. Anyone who receives letters in the post can help to collect stamps for BMS, and help boost the sales even further.

Write to BMS Didcot for a special leaflet giving all the details. ●

Stamps

News

Green Tour

More than 5,000 people have experienced the challenge of BMS President Carolyn Green's roadshow, At the Cutting Edge, which has been touring the country since last summer.

The tour, on its final leg, has so far visited 16 centres to present the BMS vision for mission in a multi-media format during open celebration meetings with keynote speakers. Carolyn's aim is to inspire and challenge Christians to put world mission high on their personal and church agendas.

Carolyn on tour

These events have also given Carolyn the chance to meet and pay tribute to volunteers who maintain the BMS profile in churches through the birthday scheme, prayer groups, magazine distribution or as mission secretaries and organisers.

And she has also met more than 400 church leaders to whom she has presented the BMS strategy for mission into the 21st century during 23 breakfast or lunch sessions.

Among many the dowdy image of a BMS stuck in the past will have been blown apart. Church leaders, especially, have left their briefing sessions with a fresh image of a dynamic organisation committed to preaching the gospel and making Jesus known worldwide.

Several have taken up the challenge to visit BMS mission settings as part of their sabbatical plan and one group of ministers from southern England have asked for a two-week exchange visit.

Those who have spent time abroad speak of the benefits. David Morris, of South Parade Baptist Church, Leeds, who has visited Zaire and Brazil says "If we believe the words of John 3:16 then we have to recognise that world mission lies at the heart of who God is. And from a personal experience, after a sabbatical spent in Zaire, I began to take world mission seriously, and it completely revolutionised my own personal life and ministry."

A feature of celebration days has been the pre-meeting receptions at which Carolyn has met personally more than 1,500 representatives from churches to thank them for their sterling efforts and encourage them to continue carrying forward the BMS banner. The receptions, which have presented host churches with the challenge of catering for as many as 150, have also enabled BMS Co-ordinators across the country to strengthen their links with church representatives.

Richard Wells, BMS

Director for Constituency Support, said: "We've greatly appreciated the superb effort by church catering teams. They have created a convivial environment which is an important attribute in honouring the work of our church volunteers."

The celebration meetings have given local church organising groups the opportunity to be creative in dance, drama and music. These features combined with video and telephone live-link dialogue with missionaries abroad, have given a dynamic fast-moving and challenging feel to the programme.

During March and April the tour will visit celebration locations at :

Exeter, South Street,
Friday 7 March, 7.15pm
Knighton, Wales,
Thursday 13 March, 7.15pm
Sutton Coldfield,
Friday 14 March, 7.15pm
Glasgow, Queen's Park,
Friday 11 April, 7.15pm
Aberdeen, International Baptist Church,
Saturday 12 April, 7.15pm
Edinburgh, Charlotte Chapel,
Sunday 13 April.
These meetings are open to everyone.

New editor for Mh

Richard Wells after two years as editor of *mh* has handed the chair to Production Editor Jan Kendall following his appointment as Director for Constituency Support.

Jan (42) has worked for BMS for over seven years, at the hub of the Society's publicity and promotion department. As well as experience in a shipping office and the credit control department of a butter factory, she has a theology degree from Nottingham University, which, she says has been very useful for the great number of Bible studies she has had to write over the years. Jan is also co-author of the BMS publication Present Company Accepted, a series of group sessions on the biblical basis for world mission.

"I've got a tough act to follow" she said, "but I believe this is what God wants me to be doing at this time. We've got a great team, and we're constantly seeking to improve what we're doing, and to hear and speak out on what we believe God is saying to his people today, especially in regard to mission."

Richard will act in a consultancy capacity as Editorial Director.

BMS TAKES KEY ROLE IN BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

Among the integral features at this year's Baptist Assembly which takes place in London, 28 April - 1 May, will be:

- the World Mission Evening, with a theme of 'Would you take that risk...?', including a live-link with a risk-taking missionary, and keynote address from Trevor Edwards, General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union. Wednesday 30 April, 7.00pm.
- 'Not the BMS Seminar', led by Alistair Brown, which takes both a light-hearted and a serious look at the image of mission work. "We're planning for 21st century mission, but we know many people still have an image of 19th century mission work" said Alistair. Tuesday 29 April, 4.15 - 5.15 pm.
- 'Ten Ways to make Mission a Higher Priority in your Church's Programme' seminar. Director for Constituency Support Richard Wells said, "Part of our business is promoting world mission, generating interesting ideas and then giving them to people who can make mission promotion go with a bang in their local churches. This workshop session will do just that." The seminar will be led by two BMS co-ordinators Cath Mawson and Theo Lambourne, both highly skilled at presentation. Wednesday 30 April, 2.15 - 3.30 pm.

John Passmore, BMS missionary in Bangladesh from 1977 - 87, proudly shows off his medal and certificate.

Bangladesh Baptists celebrate 200 years

The First Baptist Church in the sub-continent of India at Dinajpur - today located in Bangladesh - were celebrating their bi-centenary in style in November last year. To commemorate their 200 years in being, they issued specially produced certificates and medals to several BMS missionaries who had served in Bangladesh; some, like the one allocated to William Carey, were issued posthumously.

Baptist Missionary Society stamp bureau Foreign and Commonwealth stamps for sale

Individual packets of mainly larger stamps (off-paper) including special issues (contents 95+% different)
100 World
60 Brit. Commonwealth
75 Belgium
50 France
50 West Germany
75 Western Europe
60 Australia
50 Channel Islands
60 New Zealand
100 USA
£3 each or any three packs for £8
All subject to availability. Packets contain no mainland Great Britain
Please write your order, with your name and address, enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope, and cheque or postal order made out to 'BMS Stamp Bureau' and send to:
D G Neilson, 4 Argyle Street, Dundee, DD4 7AL.

BMS news

The Trustees of the Elizabeth Seward's Charities HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that they have passed a resolution under the above provisions for the following purpose: Transferring the property of eighteen constituent charities into the nineteenth charity, being the Charity of Elizabeth Seward for Minister in the Provinces.

COLOMBIA

The Presbyterian Church of Colombia has called for churches to lobby the Colombian government following the death of one of its lay pastors, Pedro Alzate Varela. Alzate was travelling on a bus when the bus was boarded by a group of armed men who shot him in front of the other passengers. Alzate was also a well-known community leader. (ENI)

UNITED STATES

An easel replaced a pulpit when YWAM University instructor and artist Mauricio Palacio brought a whole new meaning to the term "illustrated sermon". Working on a giant picture in front of the congregation, he captured in acrylics the images he received while praying as the churchgoers prayed and worshipped. "I think God wants us to find a new freedom, and speak to us visually as well as verbally" Palacio said. (YWAM News)

CYPRUS

More than 60 Partner agencies and "Friends of SAT-7" were present for the first Annual General Meeting of SAT-7, held in Cyprus recently. Entitled NETWORK '96 the two and a half days of meetings included an annual report on SAT 7's activities which began weekly broadcasts of Arabic language television programmes using the Eutelsat 2 F3 satellite in May last year. (SAT-7)

AUSTRALIA

A warehouse on the Melbourne waterfront is being used to store contributions to what one missionary organisation believes is potentially the country's biggest export: generosity. Hospital equipment, medical supplies, office furniture and building materials are all being gathered from across the region by Australian Relief and Mercy Services for shipment to Christian ministries around the world. (YWAM News)

SERBIA

A Christian rock concert in a pornographic movie theatre made an impact on young people who say the rest of the rockmusic world had abandoned them. Almost 50 members of the audience made commitments to Christ at the end of the concert in Nis by alternative rock groups formed by Youth With A Mission teams. (YWAM News)

News in Brief

News

New Bible School dedicated in Albania

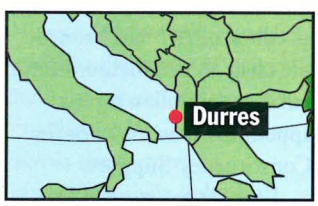
More than 100 Albanian believers and foreign missionaries gathered on the outskirts of Durres, 40km from the capital Tirana, at the end of October 1996 for the dedication of the new Albanian Bible Institute.

This represents the second phase in the development of a leadership training programme which has received a high level of co-operation from the evangelical churches in Albania. It began in 1993, with the offering of basic Bible teaching courses in towns and cities throughout Albania.

The ABI is a two storey building, with two dormitories and a classroom on the ground floor, and accommodation above for the director and his family as well as rooms for women students, along with dining room, and lounge/library. It already has 15 students who come from different cities and towns and are already active in the ministry of their local churches, all of which have been founded in the last five years.

The course is full-time, but only partly residential (one week in every three). Students use the two non-residential weeks for ministry in a local church and home study assignments. The final plan for the teaching staff is to have three full-time, two part-time and a further three visiting lecturers. Two of the teachers' wives are already involved in the life of the school.

The ABI will soon be registered by the Albanian government, and it is hoped that it will soon be a major force in the on-going and increasing development of a truly indigenous nationally-led Albanian church.



Bishop makes outspoken attack

Bishop Lesslie Newbigin launched an outspoken attack on "Western free-market culture" at Salvador, Brazil, while addressing the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism at the end of the last year. He said it was dominating the world, and he also criticised churches for lacking the courage to provide an alternative. Bishop Newbigin said that although much of the conference time was spent discussing "non-European culture", not so much time had been spent studying the Western culture "in which the gospel had become domesticated". (ENI)

DRAMATIC DROP IN INFANT MORTALITY

Simple actions such as food distribution, vaccination of new-born babies, and teaching mothers elementary hygiene have saved the lives of thousands of children in Brazil. These lives have been saved through the co-operation of three levels of government and dozens of organisations, including non-governmental organisations, and others like UNICEF.

Commentators in Brazil are also marvelling that this has not happened because of great expenditure or gigantic plans. It is not the exclusive result of efforts of any federal state or local government body, nor of a specific religious or civil group.

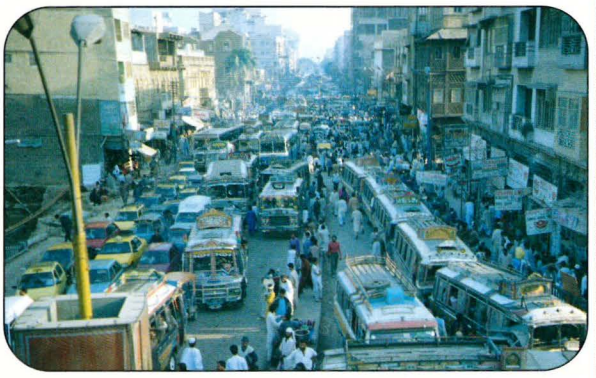
This table shows how the number of children's deaths have fallen in north east Brazil over the last two years. It still has a long way to go, but the dramatic percentage drop in such a short space of time is remarkable.

Norm:
Number of deaths per thousand children born alive = 20

STATE	1994	1995
Alagoas	183	113
Sergipe	117	84
Ceará	110	62
Paraiba	112	48
Bahia	103	41
Rio Grande	103	59
Maranhao	77	51
Piaui	70	47
Average	100	60

Figures published by the Ministry of Health

Alistair Brown



Big cities-home for the lost?

Streets jammed with traffic and crowded with people. This is Karachi, Pakistan, a city exploding with population growth. It's not unusual. Early next century, for the first time in history, the majority of the world's population will live in cities.

To walk the streets of the mega cities is to be choked by fumes, pestered by beggars, and to encounter desperate poverty, loneliness and sometimes violence. The cities are crowded with lost people.

So BMS has made the big cities a focus of our future strategy. We'll take the gospel to the poorest favelas, the abandoned children, the helpless who roam streets and may have no home anywhere. The task is immense. It seems impossible. But, in God's power, it's no more impossible than the commission given to those first disciples to go into all the world. In today's world, that must mean going to the cities' millions to make Jesus known.

Ministry under the Big Top

When Ashtons Circus - one of Australia's biggest - comes to town, it brings more than acrobats, jugglers and clowns. Travelling with it for the last four years has been Australia's first circus chaplain, Barry Fletcher, who ministers to the 25,000 itinerant workers in the country's circus industry.

Barry, a Pentecostal minister, commented, "It's an industry that has never had a chaplain." He counsels workers on many issues when they call into his mobile office for tea or coffee or a chat. He talks to them about drug and alcohol abuse, and financial problems as well as their spiritual needs. It is difficult for circus and sideshow workers to have regular contact with the clergy unless they have their own chaplain because "not many priests want to have anything to do with itinerant people."

Fletcher has held services under the big top with congregations ranging between 200 and 1,300. He has also conducted five christenings and one wedding.

A religious service in a tent is well-received, he says, because for many people it is non-threatening. (ENI)

WORLD news

Letter to WML Desk

Dear Audrey
Help! I've just taken over as District BMS Secretary and at my first meeting questions were asked about help BMS gives to Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up groups - we think you send a letter but no one seemed very certain.

Congratulations on your appointment as District BMS Secretary. We hope you find your new role both rewarding and exciting. Don't panic if you don't know all the answers, none of us do, and others are there to help - you can write to BMS at Didcot; get in touch with your BMS Co-ordinator; speak to other District BMS Secretaries - together we can find the answer to your queries.

You ask about help to Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up groups. Yes, all new Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up Contacts receive a letter from BMS and with that letter a pack of material giving some basic information about BMS and the work it is involved in and some ideas as to the role of Missionary Secretary or, in the case of the Contact, some information on Link-Up and role of the Link-Up Contact. In addition your BMS Co-ordinator will also get in touch, introduce themselves and share information about help that is available more locally.

After this initial contact more help is available

- All Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up Contacts receive, free, a mailing from Didcot three times a year giving details of new publications and up-to-date information on BMS;
- Subscribing to mh magazine is encouraged (some churches pay the subscription for their Missionary Secretary); and
- Regular training / information events are arranged by the BMS Co-ordinators.

On a more individual level support is also available - BMS Co-ordinators are always there to help and advise; the World Mission Link Organiser at Didcot can be contacted; and there are other Missionary Secretaries or Link-Up Contacts nearby who will be ready to share their experience. By using this network and the information that comes through the post we hope all Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up Contacts receive the help they need - if your group feels that there is more that needs to be done, do let us know. ●

Audrey

Dates for your Diary

At The Cutting Edge Presidential tour
In March and April Carolyn Green will be visiting the South Western and West Midlands Areas and Scotland, meeting church leaders and sharing in celebrations with people from the churches.

Meetings with church leaders
Meals with ministers have been arranged in the the following Areas - Birmingham, Worcester, Coventry, the South West and Scotland. Any minister who has not yet received an invitation should contact the BMS Co-ordinator for their area.

Other Events and meetings:

Saturday and Sunday 1/2 March
Hartlepool District BMS Weekend
Details Eric Westwood 01429 866164

Monday 3 March
Lanarkshire Women's Auxilliary Missionary Rally, Coatbridge
Details Betty Brown 01236 429450

Tuesday 4 March
Newport WMA Annual Gift Day
Details Janet Hall 01633 271661

Wednesday 5 March
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Prayer Meeting, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, Glasgow
Details Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Saturday and Sunday 8/9 March
Cardiff District BMS Weekend
Details Beryl Davies 01222 756426

Monday10 March
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Fellowship, Bath Street, Glasgow
Details Ann Durning 0141 641 6248

Good Friday 28 March
South East Thames Annual Good Friday breakfast
Details Joy Piper 01322 528440

Wednesday 2 April
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Meeting, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, Glasgow
Details Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Wednesday 9 April
Prayer Concert at Waterlooville Baptist Church
Details Leslie Gregory 01705 257305

Saturday and Sunday 12/13 April
Western Baptist Association, Group D Annual Mission Weekend
Details Pauline Trounson 01297 442583

Monday 14 April
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Fellowship, AGM, Bath Street, Glasgow
Details Ann Durning 0141 641 6248

Wednesday 7 May
BMS Welsh Womens Missionary Auxiliary Annual Meetings, Zion, Newtown
Details Delyth Wyn Davies 01766 512957

WOW Action Day
Saturday 5 April, Centenary Baptist Church, March, Cambs
Contact Sandra Davies 01354 654493

Inspiration, motivation, ideas, news on world mission for churches

ission Link

Have I got news for you?

Paul Merton and church raise the roof for PIPS

Ministers can be forgiven if they don't like building projects. So when Paul Merton and his Westgate Road Baptist Church, Newcastle set out on a project to modernise their Anglican-type church, that they knew would take several years, they must have wondered what lay ahead.

To add to the challenge Westgate Road church is a Grade 2 listed building, and its Westmorland slate roof had to be replaced with expensive Westmorland slate.

Undaunted, members set about raising money for their own building project. At the same time they pledged to support a building project overseas.

So when they recently raised £17,370 at a special thank-offering in aid of their new roof, they tithed that offering and gave £1,737 to BMS in support of a special PIPS project. The money will help pay for the building and equipping of a clinic in Fortaleza, north-east Brazil where BMS missionary Mary Parsons is based (see above).

Mary reports that the project - a Save the Children scheme - is going well, and already the water board have laid pipes, which will soon be linked up to the clinic. Work is happening at such a pace that there are plans to start renovating a bungalow alongside the clinic, in which it is possible Mary will live.

"This is capturing every-one's imagination," said BMS North of England Co-ordinator Cath Mawson. "It's brilliant how things have taken off." ●

Bridgwater Story

When the members of Bridgwater Baptist Church got together and decided on a Christmas sale and luncheon, to raise money for BMS, they didn't realise how quickly the news of their fundraising event would travel! Both the local press (Bridgwater Mercury) and Father Christmas called in to see them. Altogether, they raised a breathtaking £1,100.

BMS Co-ordinators Delyth Wyn Davies and Phil Hindle are ready, willing and able to go to churches in their areas to talk about their recent trip to Zaire. You can contact them direct on 01823 698977 (Phil) and 01766 512957 (Delyth).

Delyth

Phil

Action Teams Tours

The Action Teams return to the UK in the spring, and as we go to press, not all the dates and venues have been firmed up for their itineraries of visiting churches around the country. However, this is what we do know. Look up your area, and make a space in your diary for the relevant date!

NORTH OF ENGLAND
Contact: Cath Mawson. Tel. 01274 487341
28 April - 5 May — Zimbabwe team in Craven district. Contact Sue Sheppy, 01282 813415
5 May - 12 May — Thailand team at Moortown Baptist Church, Leeds. Contact John Hawkesworth 0113 269 3742
12 May - 19 May — Thailand team at Heywood Baptist church, Rochdale. Contact Sandra Crawford 01706 628908
Brazil team in Brierfields, Burnley. Contact Hilda Pate 01282 74025
19 May - 26 May — Brazil team in Adel, Leeds.
26 May - 2 June — UK team in South Bank, Middlesbrough. Contact Doris Burdett 01642 452778
2 June - 9 June — Jamaica team in Ansdall, Lytham St Annes. Contact Andrew Hardcastle 01253 739043
9 June - 16 June — Malta team in Rochdale district. Contact Val Treaton 01706 522084
16 June - 23 June — Portugal team in Northern Association. Contact Margaret Barnett 01207 504023

SCOTLAND
Contact: Derek Clark. Tel 0141 775 1201
28 April - 5 May — Thailand team at Edinburgh & Lothian Baptist Missionary Auxiliary
5 May - 12 May — To be confirmed
12 May - 19 May — UK team at Cupar Baptist Church, Fife
19 May - 26 May — UK team at Paisley Central Baptist Church
26 May - 2 June — Jamaica team at Bridge of Don Baptist Church, Aberdeen
2 June - 9 June — Malta team at Solway Association
9 June - 16 June — To be confirmed
16 June - 23 June — Nepal team in Argyleshire and the Isles

SOUTH WALES
Contact: Gareth Hutchinson. Tel 01792 360909
5 May - 12 May — Nepal team in Cardiff
12 May - 19 May — Nepal team in Cwmbran
9 June - 16 June — Jamaica team in Aberdare & Swansea
16 June - 23 June — Malta team in Blackwood

NORTH & MID WALES
Contact: Delyth Wyn Davies. Tel 01766 512957
All details to be confirmed

CENTRAL & EAST OF ENGLAND
Contact: Jim Clarke. Tel 01353 778984
28 April - 5 May — UK team in Buckinghamshire
5 May - 12 May — Jamaica team in Suffolk BMS Support Group
Malta team in Swavesey and Cambridgeshire. Contact Richard Owen 01954 232210
12 May - 19 May — Malta team at Mill Road Baptist Church, Wellingborough.
19 May - 26 May — Malta team in Hertfordshire
26 May - 2 June — Portugal team at Leigh Road Baptist Church, Leigh-on-Sea. Contact Roger Martin 01702 471010
2 June - 9 June — Nepal team in Leighton Buzzard and Bedfordshire. Contact Sue Carter 01525 221187
Thailand team at Great Shelford, Cambridge. Contact Jonathan Burrough 01223 842181
9 June - 16 June — Thailand team at Victoria Road South Baptist Church, Chelmsford.
Zimbabwe team in Norwich. Contact Raymond Lewis 01603 743685
16 June - 23 June — Brazil team at Histon Baptist Church Contact Jane Magowan 01480 435153 (work)

LONDON & SOUTH EAST ENGLAND
Contact: Derek Mucklow. Tel. 0181 393 6017
All details to be confirmed

MIDLANDS
Contact: Theo Lambourne. Tel. 0116 271 3633
28 April - 5 May — Brazil team at Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church, Trinity Hill Contact Alan Pain
5 May - 12 May — UK team at Dunchurch Baptist Church, near Rugby Contact Matthew Cooper 01788-813651
12 May - 19 May — Jamaica team with Nottingham BMS Support Group, Contact Joan Manicom 0115-962-3235
19 May - 26 May — Jamaica team in Worcester, Contact Martin Hodson 01905-358 869.
26 May - 2 June — Malta team based at Shirley Baptist Church Solihull, Contact Brian Garman 0121-704-1145
2 June - 9 June — Portugal team based at Ashby-de-la-Zouch Baptist Church, Leics, Contact Gill Roberts 01530-414 350
9 June - 16 June — Nepal team based at Ledbury Baptist Church, Contact Simon Minshull 01531-632 079
16 June - 23 June — Zimbabwe team based at Ross-on-Wye Baptist Church, Contact Phil Dazeley 01989-567 810
16 June - 23 June — Thailand team based with the Peterborough District Contact Maggi Bass 01733-237 692

SOUTH & WEST OF ENGLAND
Contact: Phil Hindle. Tel. 01823 698977
28 April - 5 May — Malta team in North Oxford & E. Glos.
5 May - 12 May — Portugal team in Gosport
12 May - 19 May — Zimbabwe team in Didcot
19 May - 26 May — Zimbabwe team in Isle of Wight
Nepal team in Torquay
26 May - 2 June — Zimbabwe team in Glos. Association
Thailand team in Yeovil
2 June - 9 June — Brazil team in Worle, Weston-super-Mare
9 June - 16 June — To be confirmed
16 June - 23 June — Jamaica team in Berks. Association

Martin Pearse on course

MARK RUDALL MEETS THE INCOMING BMS PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT

Martin Pe

NOT every day do I meet someone who lists his leisure interests as 'school governor, barn-dance caller, football referee, walking, camping and supporting my children's activities'. They are all high-energy activities, and when this same person must also find time to hold down a demanding career in the voluntary sector and be preparing for a non-stop year as the fourth President of the BMS he must be someone with enormous zest for life.

All this seemed to match the head-and-shoulders pictures of Martin Pearse appearing in various Baptist periodicals during Autumn 1996. Even without seeing the rest of him they reminded me of the kind of rugged figure whose top half might have been glimpsed years ago on the bridge of a liner, sextant in hand checking the ship's course.

President-elect Martin is aged 43 and earns his living as Director of Burton-on-Trent YMCA. The son of a BMS missionary, he was part of the teenage BMS Summer School generation and like so many others developed an enthusiasm for the Society's work through the friendships made summer by summer. Eventually invited to join the BMS Committee, he has served for 12 years and currently is representative Director on the Board of Management.

He is a wonderful example of the kind of person whose existence reinforces the management axiom 'if you want something done, ask a busy man'.

But sometimes he has to stop, and Martin's home life centres on his wife Anna, and their sons Nicholas (12) and

with BMS

Taking the risk

Taking the risk

Mark (10). The family are part of New Baptist Church, Burton-on-Trent, moving there from London when Martin was given the task of opening up a new YMCA work in the district. 'Ours is a very Christian branch of the YMCA' he says, 'and over the years our work has grown dramatically, seeing us working in the community with people of all ages, not just the young.'

'I have a tremendous sense of privilege at being given this Presidential opportunity,' he says. 'And I see the task as different from that of the former BMS Chairman. I am clearly a figurehead in a sense, but I also see my role is to be involved in the decision-making processes of the Society. I also want to be active in promoting the work of the BMS world-wide. I'll do it, I suppose, in my own style, but I think age is on my side for the BMS has sometimes been seen by our constituency as an organisation run by older people and that's not really fair.'

The 1997-8 Assembly theme 'Take the Risk' has been developed jointly between Martin and the incoming Baptist Union President Frederick George. I asked Martin for his perspectives on it:

'I'm proud of the BMS. I think we're becoming more and more relevant and also more 'evangelical' too: I think God wants that so I want to be bold and not be afraid to say it. Carolyn Green has run meetings around the country to raise the BMS profile and to clarify what we stand for - so I want to continue that.

'I particularly have a heart for young people and the 20s-40s in our churches. We now live in the kind of world where things are much more temporary than they were a few years ago. This kind of trend means that if the BMS is to exist in ten to fifteen years time younger people need to grasp its vision and help the Society to adapt. They need to grasp the importance of world mission, and if they're Baptists, to support what the BMS is doing; otherwise what I believe what God wants simply won't be there. I believe God does want the BMS, so I'll keep promoting that and also keep encouraging those who are older to bring the younger ones aboard.

'Strategically, I see the Action Teams as terribly important and well worth developing even further,' he says. 'These teams can change the lives of young people. But I'd like also to have a series of 'rolling magazine style' evening meetings for young people to show how the command to preach, teach and baptise is a day-to-day imperative, not merely an option among all the other things to do in their busy lives.'

'I think that's where our Assembly theme of 'Take the Risk' comes in: I want to see people getting involved, giving their 'all' to Christ and being obedient to what He wants.'

Martin and I were talking in the chapel on the top floor of Baptist House. Perhaps it was the steps down to the ground floor that once again called to mind the image of the confident mariner pacing along the ship's bridge, sextant in hand. I reflected how that image is perhaps not quite as appropriate as I thought at first.

Martin Pearse does indeed know where he's going: but we can be sure he intends to look to his Lord for the regular course checks throughout his BMS Presidential year. ●

The second of a series edited by **Jan Kendall** which focuses on six towns or cities around the world in which BMS personnel are operating.

So what's different about Kathmandu?

Kathmandu is a town like many others - lots of people, homes, offices, shops, cars, buses, trucks, rush-hour traffic jams, a ring-road, pigeons and sparrows. So how does Kathmandu differ from your nearest town? Well, there are several things missing that you might expect to see. For example, there are no street names, except on the main roads, so most people do not have a home address. This makes it difficult to find someone's house unless they show you the way; there are no postal deliveries and certainly no post codes! Also, once you step away from the main roads, you step off the pavements - there aren't any, there are only a few street lights in the network of narrow winding streets which make up the bulk of Kathmandu.

Public transport is restricted to buses of all shapes and sizes, a number of trolley buses donated by China, a growing fleet of taxis and some cheap but uncomfortable three-wheeler auto-rickshaws. The brightly coloured cycle-rickshaws are used mainly by tourists. Many people travel by bicycle or motorbike and a large number of pedestrians brave the traffic and the fumes. Steps have been taken to reduce the pollution caused by vehicle emissions and low grade fuels, but Kathmandu is surrounded by hills which means the smoke is not easily dispersed. One mission organisation has started issuing smog masks to its Kathmandu based workers - a new item for the 'essential missionary kit'!

Pollution, monsoon clouds and foggy winter mornings permitting, you can occasionally see the Himalayas from Kathmandu, something not many other towns can claim. Sacred cows, revered by the Hindus, meander freely down the middle of the main road, pigs snuffle for food in the rubbish unceremoniously dumped here and there, packs of dogs jealously guard their territories, and the occasional monkey ventures off the rooftops to snatch a bag of fruit from a passer-by.

NOTHING EVER CHANGES...?

Daniel Wright, a surgeon attached to the British Residency in Nepal in the 1870s, wrote: "The streets of Kathmandu are very narrow, mere lanes in fact; and the whole town is very dirty... to clean the drains would now be impossible without knocking down the entire city, as the whole ground is saturated with filth. In short, from a sanitary point of view, Kathmandu may be said to be built on a dunghill in the middle of latrines."

A current travel writer, Charlie Pye-Smith, comments that little has changed!

THE CHRISTIAN SCENE

Until the 1950s the Hindu kingdom of Nepal was closed to the gospel, but Christians throughout Asia were praying for an opening. In 1951 a new government invited foreigners to Nepal to undertake development work. In this way three young men from the Union Biblical Seminary in India came to Nepal in 1952, and started a small house fellowship in Putalisadak (Butterfly Street), Kathmandu. By 1960 a church building had been erected opposite the present Parliament buildings, still on Putalisadak, and the first pastor appointed.

Today church attendance at Putalisadak is on the increase and the building is too small. The church is gradually achieving Nepali leadership. It has a daughter church in one of the slum areas of Kathmandu and a growing youth, children's and women's programme. Every week night, in one part of the city or other there are two house fellowships meeting.

The church also hopes to expand its social programme, providing more scholarships to children of poor homes. ●

K

Our Town

athmandu

Our Town

Merging of two major religions

In Kathmandu the two major religions merge - so Hindus and Buddhists share the same festivals and same places of worship. There is a great emphasis on the extended family; parents arrange marriages for their children; sons continue to live with their parents after marriage, while daughters are "given away" to the in-laws. Displays of affection between husband and wife in public are frowned upon, although hand-holding between friends of the same sex is a common sight.

Has TV reached Kathmandu?

Yes, the all-pervasive global culture has arrived in Kathmandu - many homes do have satellite TV. Imagine the impact of a programme like "Baywatch" on a society where it is culturally inappropriate for all but children to show their legs! The traditional male dress is a long white tunic and trousers, baggy at the thighs, but tight at the ankles. However, already this is kept only for the most formal occasions and has mostly been replaced by the ubiquitous trousers and shirt or t-shirt. Saris are still the norm for women, but western styles are seen by the young as more fashionable and are worn by the more daring.

There is also the government-operated Radio Nepal which broadcasts traditional Nepali music and solid, dry "educational" programming, and in contrast, Kathmandu FM Radio Station has recently been launched which provides lots of western pop songs, and uses English as its main language.

Leisure

In Kathmandu you won't find leisure centres, children's playgrounds, public libraries, superstores or McDonalds. There is one public outdoor swimming pool, a few spartan public parks, some private libraries, a number of 60s style department stores and a Wimpy, which opened in 1996. There is electricity and telephone systems, although often unreliable, and the water supply is not safe to drink without filtering and boiling.

Our town

Kathmandu

Everyday life

Amidst the many tiered pagoda palaces, temples, durbars and squares of Patan are a veritable rabbit warren of medieval houses reaching up for the sunlight and air whilst the streets are dark and dark even on the hottest day. Despite the municipality infrastructure inadequacies, each year more of the lanes are powered and homes connected to drains. Although 90 per cent of homes have taps, water only flows from 60 per cent of them and that at infrequent intervals. Consequently the traditional water sources of stone taps and wells are in great demand. Week by week, every Saturday, there's a queue at the taps/wells with mum bringing the family's weekly wash to be soaped scrubbed, pounded, rinsed and wrung out near the water source, then carried home in copper or plastic bowls taken up to the roof and spread out to dry.

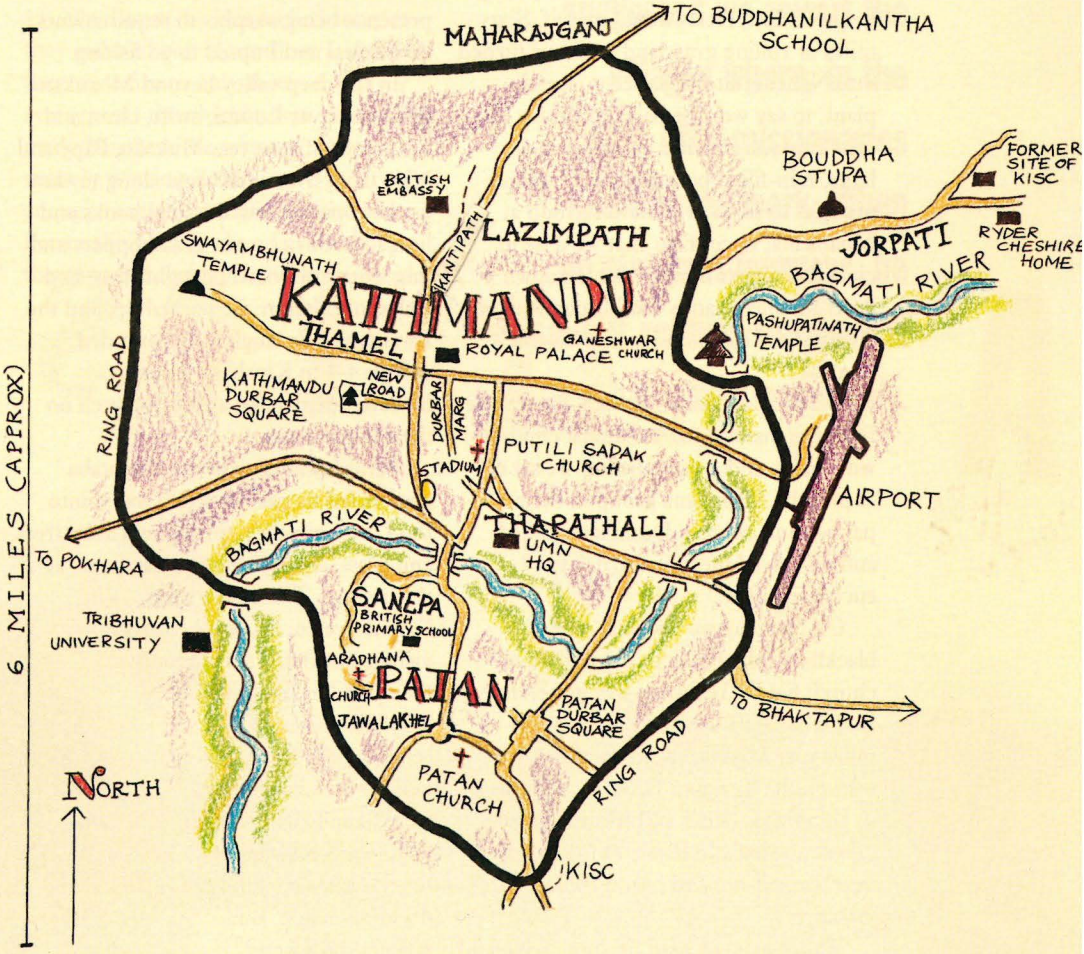
Houses are traditionally one room wide and built round a square, frequently have a worship place - either stupa or small shrine. Within the old city of Patan there are 2,200 stupas (area approx one square mile). At the festival of "Maitrya" when the dead are remembered and their spirits encouraged to pass over to the next world, thousands of people visit these stupas leaving a small offering at each one - a few grains of rice, candle, wick lamp, sweets or flowers. Normally each morning a family member will go out to the square to make an offering, then move to the shrine of the neighbourhood for making a further offering - perhaps even to one of the major shrines of the area before retiring home and making offerings to the individual deities at the top and bottom of the house. ●

Where there's a well, there's a way

Dil Maya Tandukar and Sarmila Maharjan are an unlikely duo - forty years difference in age, one a great-granny with diminished eye-sight, the other, a young mother struggling to run her tiny tea shop whilst caring for her two under-fives! What unites them - the well! They are both dependent on the same well for drinking water. It is strategically placed at the bend of a road leading down to the Bagmati River. Farmers pause for a drink on their way home resting the sheaves of rice on a nearby wall. The daily labourers who fill sacks with sand from the river pause for a drink as they plod up to the construction sites around the city. Women are glad of a chat and a drink as they return with their bowls of washing. The well is a social focus for all who pass by but before anyone can enjoy a drink Dil Maya or Sarmila have to produce a bucket to be let down 16-18 feet to the water level. Not once a day, but ten, twenty, thirty times. Of course being on a public path there are the thoughtless who toss a pebble or a stick into the well, and the wind deposits dust and sand.

The ladies decided something must be done and they had actually seen rower pumps fitted to covered wells in other parts of the city. They approached CDHP whose water technician encouraged them in community motivation and awareness raising. A committee was formed, funds raised and application for CDHP assistance submitted. Dil Maya and Sarmila were key committee members. The committee opened a bank account - more accurately they attempted to open a bank account but no one was literate, no one could sign his/her name so the bank insisted that the signatories should have citizenship certificates. What a proud day it was when Dil Maya and Sarmila came into the office with their laminated citizenship cards complete with photographs and thumbprints. The very next day off to the bank they went, the cash deposits and the work began!

Subsequently both ladies took training on how to maintain the rower pumps and how to chlorinate the well using a slow release system. The community contributed 26% of the total costs by their labour and bringing sand from the river.●



Zaire Zaire Zaire Zaire Zaire

FROM THE DIARY OF **OWEN CLARK**...
I THOUGHT IT WAS A FAIR RESULT, THOUGH WE HADN'T SET OUT TO RUN AN ANGLING COMPETITION AT ALL. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CHURCH PLANTING.

On the Saturday we'd set off in the Land Rover for the Bateke plateau, district evangelist Mputu, a young helper Belesi, Deanna and myself. Sixty miles of rolling grassland later, we turned into Nguene, site of a recent church plant, to say we'd be back on Friday to start courses. Further negotiation of large, rain-filled potholes for 25 miles brought us to an even newer group at Mbankana, to confirm that we'd be in church the next day. A final leg down a deep-puddled, sandy road brought us to Bwantaba. To stay in Pastor Mbieme's mud-hut.

On Sunday morning, Pied-Piper style, Belesi enchanted the Bwantaba children with songs and a story, before we set off to join the Mbankana group in their palm-frond church. Deanna preached, and we stayed most of the day to encourage them.

On Monday we checked out the blackfly on the beans in the Bwantaba church field. Treatment was imperative. Invited to start work at Kinzono, ten miles past Mbankana, we paid them a visit on the Tuesday. Each evening, back in Bwantaba, Belesi and Mputu called people to sing and dance to the drum near a camp-fire and hear a Bible message.

Wednesday we paid for insecticide and arranged for the blackfly to be sprayed. Deanna planned to teach the Mbankana women to make pancakes in the afternoon and so it came about, our presence being surplus to requirements, that Belesi and I opted to go fishing.

In the deep valley beyond Mbankana flows the river Lufimi, swift, clear, and the colour of neat tea. Mukoko, Papy and Nkie from Bwantaba came along to show us the ropes. Whilst I issued hooks and line, local boys caught grasshoppers and dug worms for bait. I caught three and Belesi one, before we packed up, and the Bwantaba lads laughingly conceded defeat: 4-1 to Kinshasa. Honour, however, demanded a return match on their home water.

Saturday afternoon the Bwantaba anglers led us past an acacia forest into the Limbimi valley, through scrubby trees and grass, steeply down to the forest at the bottom. There, in a small, swift, limpid stream, fish were clearly visible, but Belesi and I found them hard to catch, taking only one apiece. On rejoining the Bwantaba lads, to our chagrin they were happily descaling 26 fish. It was Kinshasa's turn to call for a final and deciding match. But when? And where?

For Sunday services we split forces - Deanna at Bwantaba to preach, Mputu and Papy at Mbankana. I took Belesi to Bombo-Lumene, where, to the children's delight, he did his Pied Piper bit. Papa Antoine, who had cut new pole-seats and added a palm-frond or two to the roof, helped get communion ready, before banging the wheel-rim. We had 18 adults and four children till Belesi and crowd joined us to swell the singing. Message and benediction given, we shook hands at the door, and the members returned for communion.

On Monday war was declared on the blackfly, and Mukoko learnt how to pump insecticide. Later we continued

Zaire Zaire Zaire Zaire Zaire

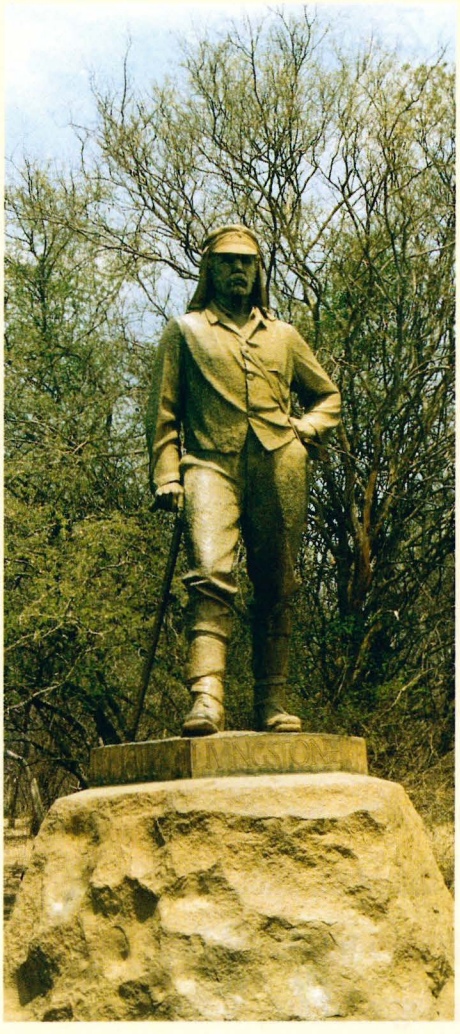
A fair result

our classes in Bwantaba and Mbankana. Tuesday and Wednesday were spent, as promised at Kinzono, Belesi animating the singing and calling people to gather. Mputu preached effectively. On the second day we talked with them about founding a CBFZ church, and promised to return the following month.

On Friday, our last day, we met the big chief of the area, Labi, who suggested we revisit the villages where, in the 1930s BMS missionaries had started work. When an elephant journeys, he said, it returns to where it has eaten previously.

In the afternoon Mukoko and Co were in a church meeting, but five others were keen to settle unfinished business. We agreed on the Limbimi again, at a different location. Belesi and I caught five fish each, and Deanna one, to make 11. The Bwantaba lads looked smug as they counted out 14, until we said that they were five to only three of us. Our average was thus higher than theirs. That made Kinshasa the winners. Though not entirely convinced, they were generous enough to concede defeat for the series. Personally I felt it was a fair result. But then I would, being on the winning side.

We met the big chief of the area, Labi, who suggested we revisit the villages where, in the 1930s BMS missionaries had started work. When an elephant journeys, he said, it returns to where it has eaten previously.



Clothed in flesh and blood

MISSIONARY SLIDES ARE JUST A SHADOW OF THE REAL THING SAYS PASTOR AND GP ALAN K BEAVIS. THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE MEETING OUR OVERSEAS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN PERSON.

If only mission could be more interesting, more immediate. If only we could actually get to know someone in a foreign mission or church. It would then be so much more real. We would pray with much more enthusiasm and with much more sense of what to pray for. In these days of fast and relatively cheap travel there are greater opportunities than ever to get a closer feel and contact with missionary work.

Having previously visited Zimbabwe in November 1994, both to visit friends and to minister in several different churches, I set off once more in May 1996. Although many Zimbabweans would consider themselves Christians, many also embrace their old traditional (animist) beliefs, which often centre around ancestor worship. In a society that is very aware of "spiritual forces", evangelism is seen very much as a power encounter between God and the forces of darkness. There also needs to be an emphasis on physical and spiritual healing as part of the gospel declaration.

When I left it was with some apprehension, as I had no idea of the plans that had been made for me during the time I would spend in Zimbabwe. On arriving, somewhat drowsy and bedraggled after a ten hour overnight flight, my worst fears were realised - there were NO plans for my visit! Yes, they knew I was coming and yes, they were very pleased to see me again but, after all, this was Africa! Planning, organisation, etc, well that's all very UK. One of the first things to realise is that we can't expect things in Africa to work in the same way or at the same speed as they do at home.

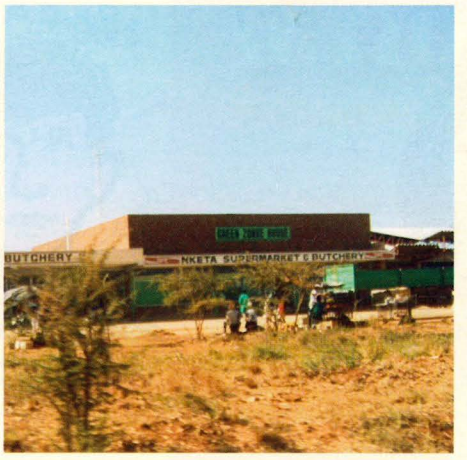
Because of my job as a GP, as well as the pastor of Totteridge Road Baptist Church in Enfield, I made contact with the Hospital Christian Fellowship and spent time meeting the local Christians in the hospitals in Harare. This was to be a pattern often repeated - one contact leading to another and contacts made on this visit that have led to further invitations for the future. I also made contact with BMS missionary Steve Seymour and spent a day out in the rural areas seeing something at first hand of the agricultural work of BMS. It just happened that Patrick Dube, the president of the Baptist Union in Zimbabwe was also on the same trip, so another contact was made. Speaking with the local Christians is so much more stimulating than viewing missionary slides!

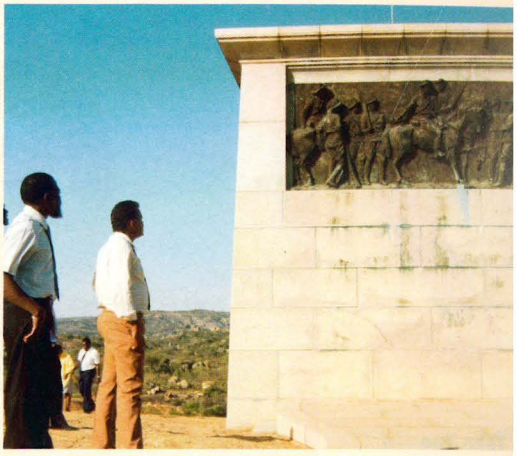
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city is a very attractive city where the streets, while not being paved with gold, are wide enough to turn a full team of oxen in one go! I didn't actually see any teams of oxen but, no doubt, the ability to accomplish this manoeuvre was very useful in the days of Cecil Rhodes and the original European settlers.

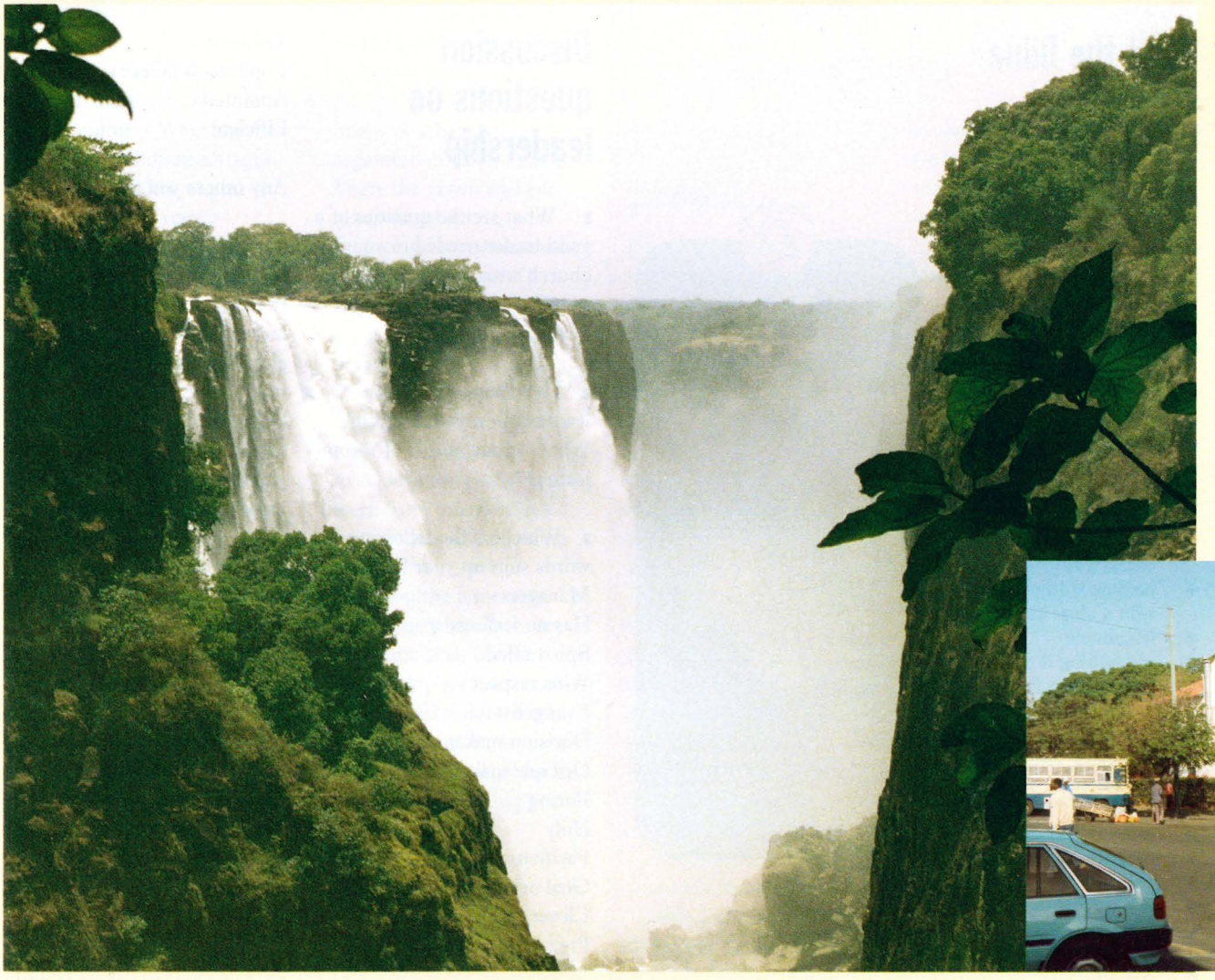
In Bulawayo I was able to preach at a church which turned out to be a group of about one hundred people meeting in the open air every week, sitting on a tarpaulin. They did have a tent but it was blown down in the wind and now they are hoping to raise funds to build a permanent structure.

As a result of meeting their pastor, we were able to invite him to the UK to share his vision for a multi-purpose building to meet the needs of this particular suburb of Bulawayo, call Nkulumane. Since his visit in August, the church at Totteridge Road has caught this vision and has pledged to help raise support for the building. The youth group really took the whole thing to heart and as well as hoping to raise funds, some are already planning to visit Zimbabwe and do some practical work there. Now they have met Pastor Levy, they know him and want to help their new friend realise his vision for God's work in his homeland.

Also while in Bulawayo, I met Pastor Raymond Motsi, from Bulawayo Central Baptist Church, a church which has been responsible for several church plants in the spreading suburbs around the city. The original church was built on land given to the Baptists personally by Cecil Rhodes! Raymond raised with me the possibility of forming a 'twinning' relationship between the church in Bulawayo and the church here at Totteridge Road, an idea that I found very exciting and







Far left: statue of David Livingstone Above left: Nursing sister in Harare Above centre: Supermarket in Bulawayo Above right: Plaque in National Park Main: Victoria Falls Bottom right: Theological College at Bulawayo

to which the church readily responded on my return.

Our mission interest is now clothed with flesh and blood and we feel that in the coming years we will derive as much blessing and input from our Zimbabwean friends as they will from us. We now have regular information on the work in Zimbabwe in our services and each part of the church is getting involved. Nowadays, there are regular phone calls and letters between Bulawayo and Enfield with a flow of information between us. We really feel that we have become partners with our brothers and sisters in Africa and they with us ●

Alan K Beavis, minister of Totteridge Road Baptist Church, Enfield is also a GP.

TAKE 2

Take Two – a resource for church leaders and workers

What the Bible says about leadership

A leader should be :

- able to delegate
- above reproach
- eager to serve
- examples to the flock
- equipping God's people for service
- first tested
- full of the Spirit
- gentle, not violent
- not given to drunkenness/indulging in much wine
- of good reputation with outsiders
- holding truths of faith with a clear conscience
- hospitable
- not lording it over those entrusted to them
- not a lover of money
- not malicious talkers
- managing own family well
- not pursuing dishonest gain
- not a recent convert
- respectable
- self-sacrificing
- self controlled
- a servant
- a shepherd of God's flock
- sincere
- able to teach
- trustworthy
- voluntary, not press-ganged
- wise
- worthy of double honour

These refer to elders, deacons, and others in non-specific leadership. References are from Exod 18, Mt 20, John 13, Acts 6, Eph 4, Phil 4, 1 Thess 5, im 3, 1 Tim 5, Titus 1, 1 Pet 5

Q

"The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate those goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God."

(C Peter Wagner, Professor of Church Growth at Fuller Theological Seminary School of World Mission, Pasadena, California)

Discussion questions on leadership

1 What are the qualities of a good leader needed in your church situation? Are other non-leadership qualities needed as well?

2 How do you view leadership in your church? What is your profile of a good leader?

3 Which of the following words sum up your leaders:
Manager
Has no feelings
Spirit filled
Wins respect
Evangelist
Decision maker
Disciple maker
Boring
Holy
Facilitator
Goal orientated
Clever
Preacher
Judge
Patient
Disorganised
Uninspiring
Listening ear
Servant
Enabler
Happy
Authoritarian
Teacher
Visionary
Copes with failure
Anointed
Efficient

Any others you want to add?

4 How do you appoint your leadership? Do you, for example, have a sort of hierarchy of office within your church? Does someone have to have served as a deacon before he or she can become an elder? What changes would you make, and what effect would they have?

5 How did the people you know in leadership find out they were being called to leadership, and how did they acknowledge it? Was it an individual thing, or was the church involved ?

6 Do you give scope to women in leadership? What special qualities and perceptions do women bring to the role?

7 The concept of leadership is often associated with that of service. How does this manifest itself? It has been said that servanthood and anointing should go hand in hand in a leader in the church. How do you view this?

8 Leaders are human. What

resources for leaders

"I realised that before I could ever become a leader I needed to learn how to be a follower... "

(Josh McDowell, youth speaker and author)

are the main temptations that seem to overcome them? How could you counsel someone who was a victim in a situation where the leader had gone off the rails?

9 Should we impose our model of leadership in another culture? What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing this? How might things have been very different if Western religious culture had not been imposed?

10 In the Early Church leaders sometimes failed because they were appointed too young in the faith. Is this a danger facing us today? Or do we veer to the other extreme, and appoint people too old for the job?

11 In parts of the world today, there is a young Church, with little or no mature leadership. How do you think these churches ought to appoint their leaders, and what sort of people should they be?

Go to the people
Live among them
Learn from them
Work with them
Plan with them
Start with what they know
Build on what they have
Teach by showing
Learn by doing
Not a show case
Not relief but release
But the best leaders when their work is accomplished and their work is done
The people all remark, we have done it ourselves.

(Chinese poem, contributed by Steve Seymour)

Thought on leaders and leadership

- A community is its leaders
- Everything starts with good leadership
- Good things happen in communities because leaders working with people make them happen
- Lead by example. To achieve change, leaders must model it
- Find out what people want and help them set attainable goals
- Form a clear, exciting image of what the organisation can do or be. Share the vision and get others involved.
- Encourage everyone on the team to contribute
- Be committed to assisting others to realise their potential
- Be flexible in how the goals are achieved. Know that there is more than one way to achieve the goal. We can learn from mistakes; it's just another way of doing things.
- Focus on the issues or behaviour when there are problems - not the person
- Leadership means focusing on a shared vision of what is possible, but more than that, it means empowering others to make it happen.

(contributed by Steve Seymour)

"Anyone wanting to be a leader among you must be your servant. And if you want to be right at the top, you must serve like a slave"

(Jesus in Matthew 20:26-27, Living Bible)

ACTION CARD

Uprooting people

Mention the Maasai people of Kenya and images spring to mind of proud nomads clad in red robes tending their herds on the open plains. The sad fact is that many Maasai have been turned off the lands which their animals grazed for hundreds of years; their pasture land lost to developers for game parks and farming. This month's card shows volunteers from Christians Aware helping to build a school in a desert region of Kenya, where the local community of Maasai people offered hospitality and shared in the work.

Other volunteers from Christians Aware visited Brazil in 1996 and became very aware of the Indian communities suffering at the hands of unscrupulous miners, loggers and farmers who are depriving the Indians of their livelihoods and turning them off their traditional homelands. The Indian people have worked on the land for thousands of years. For them, their land is central to their identity and self worth.

The World Council of Churches is marking 1997 as the Year of Churches in Solidarity with Uprooted People. The launch of this initiative in Europe will be held in London from 6 - 9 March when the first pan-European ecumenical consultation will be held to address church responses to uprooted people: refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants, immigrants, and internally displaced persons such as the Maasai and the Indian communities of Brazil.

IT IS VITAL THAT SUPPORT IS GIVEN TO ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE UPROOTED FROM THEIR HOMELANDS.

It is vital that support is given to all people who are uprooted from their homelands. Survival International is one organisation working to draw attention to the plight of dispossessed people. Please send your card requesting information and offering support to: Survival International, 11-15 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3QL. Christians Aware address is 10 Springfield Road, Leicester, LE2 3BD. ●

TAKE 2

Hot... bunkers...
dust... bunkers...
road ra... bunker
horse and cart
Mercedes... bunkers
Get the impr

Summer action

This was our first exhausted view of Albania following a fourteen hour flight from Heathrow via Athens. We arrived at lunchtime on Friday 16 August and were met at the airport by fifteen eager taxi drivers who all wanted to carry our luggage – but we'd been warned about that during our training day at Baptist House, Didcot. We opted instead to go with the friendly Canadian, Jonathan Steeper, the Albanian volunteers co–ordinator who was there to meet us.

On arrival in the capital, Tirana, we were taken by Jonathan to meet our host family who were to look after us very well during our stay. We spent the first weekend getting our bearings around Tirana, met our Albanian translators and had our first taste of the First Baptist Church of Tirana thanks to a friendly market trader who saw three lost souls wandering around and pointed them in the direction of the church.

Monday was D–Day and the morning Bible Club began. We greeted twenty–eight eager looking faces and launched into our week's programme – stories from the Old Testament. With the help of our fine translators who managed to turn our teaching into comprehensible Sqhip (Albanian), we started at the beginning with how God created the world and moved on to look at four people that God used in very powerful ways: Noah, Moses, David and Jonah. We began each morning with a time of worship and prayer, then spent the following two hours doing craft activities.

The following Sunday we presented the church with a banner which the children had made showing the seven days of creation and everyone joined us in singing "Jesus' love is very wonderful". During the second week we focused on the life of Jesus and used the "Jesus" film translated into Albanian to help us.

By the end of our two weeks we were teaching about fifty Albanian children and a handful of missionary kids between the ages of 5 and 16. Many of the Albanian children had never heard about the Bible before.

Whilst planning for the Bible Club involved us working in the afternoons, we still had time to take in some of the local sights. We managed to choose the only gloomy and rainy day of the entire Albanian summer for a dip in the Adriatic sea, but BMS missionary Yvonne Wheeler, an expert in changing on the beach, came to our rescue as we attempted to change out of swimsuits and into dry clothes in the pouring rain and a force 10 gale!

We were greatly blessed by God as we depended on him to help us cross the language barrier, maintain our energy levels in the heat and inspire us with activities to keep the children entertained.

We thoroughly enjoyed our two weeks in Tirana working with the children, chatting with missionaries and sightseeing. We would recommend a Summer Action Team to anyone wanting to explore short–term missionary work or wanting to do something useful with their holiday.

We were sorry to leave Albania. Our thanks to all the missionaries – especially David and Yvonne Wheeler who offered us advice, support and hospitality. We are all looking forward to a return visit to the country. ●

Siân, Sharon and Trish.

SIÂN WHITE, SHARON WHITE AND PATRICIA BOUND SPENT TWO WEEKS IN ALBANIA IN AUGUST 1996 AS MEMBERS OF A 28:19 SUMMER ACTION TEAM.

s...
... bunkers...
.
ession?

Prayer *focus*

To complement the BMS Prayer Guide **Sam Gibson** brings news from BMS colleagues around the world

AFRICA

Jill and Philip Igoe
ZIMBABWE

Philip began leading a new course for pastors in January and has been very encouraged that some women have shown an interest in training for church leadership. In theory, there is no problem with women leading in the churches of Zimbabwe and yet all the pastors are male, and women's leadership tends to be confined to their own meetings or to children's work. Jill and Philip are both well aware of the vital work women do in the churches and hope they will be able to receive the training to take on more leadership roles.

The Igoes have been working on building relationships with the local people. One night they received a telephone call asking Philip if he would mind collecting a body from the mortuary the next morning! A reasonable excuse could not be brought quickly to mind although Jill and Philip did wonder how the coffin would fit into their truck. Thankfully a larger van arrived saving the Igoes the experience but as they say, "It's nice to be asked!"

Please pray

- for Philip as he leads his new pastors course, training and developing a generation of church leaders. Pray for wisdom and for growth of the course and for more women to join up
- for language study, the Igoes are making slow but definite progress with the Shona language and can now understand much of what is said to them, although they cannot always respond.

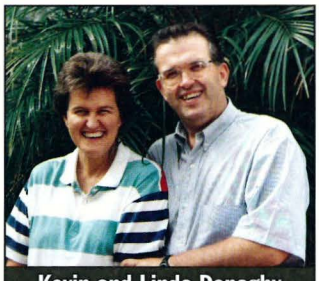
BRAZIL

Andy and Linda Eaves
BRAZIL

Andy and Linda have moved from Limoeiro do Norte, to Fortaleza to work with a new church. They are happy in their new location and are sure it is where God wants them to be, although the community is very different from that in Limoeiro – it is more affluent for one thing. The Eaves are working with the First Baptist Church of Fortaleza which has 800, mainly well educated, professional members. It has several congregations and they are attending one called Shekinah, on the edge of the city. At present, the Eaves are involved with the young people, the music and are leading a Sunday school class. They are also helping with another congregation in Capistrano, 65 miles from Fortaleza. Pastor Marcos, of the First Baptist Church has a heart for social projects and the Eaves hope to become more involved in some of the new initiatives he is setting up. The church has some involvement with a favela which they can see from their flat and Andy hopes to begin regular visits there so that he can get to know the situation. A school is planned for the favela children in the near future and the church would like to set up a consultation room in the planned school so that the several doctors in the congregation may be able to offer free clinics from time to time.

Please pray

- that the Eaves and their two young children settle quickly into the new area and build up friendships
- for their work at Shekinah, that they would have wisdom in leading, particularly amongst the young people
- a definition in the Eaves role at the First Baptist Church
- for Pastor Marcos and his social action projects



Kevin and Linda Donaghy
BRAZIL

Kevin and Linda have been on home assignment since December 1995. During that time, their daughter Anna was born and they have been considering their future. The couple will not be returning to Brazil but are making enquiries about going to Portugal.

Please pray

- for the couple as they seek the Lord's will for the next stage in their lives

Around the world

Brazil

28:19 Action Team

Recently Esther, Catherine, Sarah-Jo and Laura did some 'gate to gate evangelism' for the church of Parque Selecta. All of the houses in the area have security gates which means you cannot get to the front door. You have to clap your hands and speak to the owners from a distance. The girls distributed tracts and invitations to a church meeting. They were surprised by the enthusiasm and interest shown, which was talkative and responsive, unlike the typical doorstep response in Britain.

Please pray for the girls working in churches across southern Brazil, for health, language skills, safe travel and relationships within the team, and with those they live and work with.

EUROPE

Geoffrey and Marion Rushton
HUNGARY

Barnabas Project volunteers Geoffrey and Marion, are teaching English at the Baptist Theological Academy in Budapest. They feel they are greatly privileged to be able to serve amongst these young Hungarian Christians preparing for service as pastors and mission workers. According to the Principal, one third of the students in the Academy cannot afford to pay their tuition fees and efforts are being made so that no one suitable for training has to be turned away. The Rushtons have visited a thriving English language International Baptist church in Budapest but feel that they should worship regularly in a Hungarian church. This will help them to learn the language and also to see first hand, the type of situations in which their students do their practical placements.

Please pray

- thank God for the excellent relationships the Rushtons are building up with their students, pray this continues to develop
- for patience and understanding when they are surprised by different attitudes or procedures

David and Ann MacFarlane
ITALY

David and Ann have been made very welcome by the church in Barletta which David is pastoring. The church has a congregation of around 40 with a membership of 12 and has a strong youth group. At the congregation's request, David and Ann have begun a weekly prayer meeting with a short study every second week. The last time the church met together for prayer before this group was 23 years ago and they have had an average attendance of over 20 people each week. David continues to work with the churches in the Puglia and Basilicata Association and has been elected onto the Puglia Association committee.

Please pray

- for growth and development of the church in Barletta – several people have come forward for baptism
- guidance for David as pastor of the church on the way forward

United Mission to Nepal

Executive Director

The United Mission to Nepal (UMN) is an interdenominational Christian mission organisation working in Nepal since 1954, sponsored by more than 40 member and affiliated organisations from 18 countries. UMN is now seeking an Executive Director (C.E.O.) to lead the Mission over the coming years. Availability from January 1998 is envisaged.

Working in the fields of health, engineering and industrial development, education and rural development, UMN has a staff of 180 expatriates and 1200 Nepalis, plus secondments and working relationships with related organisations. This is an exciting organisation enabling Nepalis to be trained and involved in the development of their own country and in uplifting the poor and the marginalised. UMN pursues this goal "in the Name and Spirit of Christ, making Christ known by word and life".

The successful applicant will be a committed Christian in sympathy with UMN's purpose with the spiritual, missiological, managerial and leadership maturity needed to lead a complex organisation in a sensitive religious and cultural setting. Previous experience in Nepal or a similar situation is desirable but not essential.

UMN does not recruit expatriates directly, and the successful candidate will, as part of the application process, need to apply to and be accepted by, one of the UMN Member Bodies. Salary and benefits will be in line with that Member Body's scale for staff in Nepal.

Interested individuals should send their C.V. to the Selection Committee Chairperson, marked "Confidential - UMN Selection Committee." Please include personal and professional details and previous Christian service experience. Possible candidates will be sent further information about UMN, a job description, details of the short-listing and interview procedure, and a list of UMN Member Bodies in the applicant's home country. Closing date March 15,1997. Please send all inquiries to:

Dr. Dale H Schumm, Chairperson, Box 370, Elkhart IN 46515, USA. Fax #1 - 219 - 294 - 8669. E-mail dale@MBM.org

Prayer *focus*

Around the world

EUROPE

Prema Tennekoon
ALBANIA

In 1995, Prema was involved in developing and initiating a curriculum for nurse education in Vlore. As far as is known, this is the only curriculum written for nursing by Albanians and addressing important issues about the future of health care and nurse education not only in Vlore, but in the whole of Albania. It has now been decided to print this document and distribute it to those involved in decision making. This is an important step forward.The nursing department of the university has moved into a new building specially designated for it. Two years ago, the building was a mere shell but it is now filled with 200 students and proposals have been made to turn the ground floor into a health centre offering both a health service to the local community, and practical experience for nursing and medical students. A little over 20 of the students are Christians, most very young in the faith but all delighted to find other Christians amongst their fellow students. They have begun meeting together and want to introduce Jesus to others. A few are meeting with Prema in her home studying a discipleship course and will in turn, teach the others. They all come from different parts of Albania and who can say where they will go to at the end of their course and what they will do for God?

Please pray

- that the curriculum will get into the right hands to make an impact on medical care and nursing in Albania, at a national level
- for the young Christian students, nearly all from Muslim homes and communities – pray for protection and growth
- for the outreach these young people are beginning in the university, and for Prema as she disciples them

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The BMS Annual General Meeting will be held during the Baptist Assembly (the joint assembly of the Baptist Missionary Society and the Baptist Union of Great Britain) at Westminster Central Hall, London, on Wednesday 30 April at 11am. If you are attending the meeting in a voting capacity and have not received a voting card (either direct or from your church secretary) please apply to Michael Quantick, Administration Manager, BMS PO Box 49, Didcot, OX11 8XA.

Checkout

Arrivals

Stuart and Joyce Filby from Belgium
Joy Knapman from Sri Lanka
David Kerrigan from Sri Lanka
David and Rachel Quinney Mee from El Salvador
Peter and Margaret Goodall from Sri Lanka
Christine Preston from Nepal
Colin and Marcia Pavitt from Brazil
Derek and Joanna Punchard from Brazil

Departures

Phil Commons to Bangladesh
Stuart and Joyce Filby to Belgium
Peter and Valerie Harwood to Nepal
Joy Knapman to Sri Lanka
David Kerrigan to Sri Lanka
Stephen and Elizabeth Allford to Zaire

Overseas Visits

John Passmore to Belgium, Albania and North Africa
David Martin to North Africa
Andrew North to Nepal and Thailand

A tale
that truly takes the biscuit

ILLUSRATION SARAH PRENTICE

JOHN PASSMORE

John Passmore is the BMS Europe Representative and was a missionary in Bangladesh for ten years.

The scene: An airport departure lounge somewhere in Germany. The characters: an immaculately dressed, precise, well-off businessman and a rather scruffy looking, young backpacker.

The business man came out of a shop where he'd just purchased some rather expensive local biscuits which were in a paper bag. He had his briefcase and an overcoat folded over his arm. He looked up and down the rows of chairs in the departure lounge and eventually settled on a row where there were several empty seats. He sat in the middle, well away from the other passengers and having put the briefcase on the floor arranged the coat on the next seat.

After a few moments he got up and walked over to a stand and picked up one of the free newspapers. As he returned to his seat he visibly stiffened on seeing that he was no longer the only person in the row. In the seat next to the still folded coat was another passenger. As one looked at two men sitting either side of the coat, the contrast could not have been more marked. Rather disreputable trainers as opposed to highly polished leather shoes. A T-shirt with some rather dubious printing on it as against a perfectly pressed white shirt and silk tie. A few days growth of beard compared with a freshly shaved chin, immaculately clipped moustache and recently groomed shiny hair.

The businessman sat, opened the paper and began to read. He could not believe what happened next. The other passenger stretched out his hand, fumbled in the bag, took out one of the biscuits and began to munch! The hands holding the paper began to tremble and as if to stake a claim on the bag, he too reached out and took a biscuit. Time passed, passengers came and went, planes landed and took off and the hand moved again. Further indignation but the only response was to take a biscuit himself as before. More flights were called when the final insult came. The hand moved out, felt in the bag and discovered that there was only one biscuit left. The young man took out the biscuit, broke it in half, offered one piece to his fellow traveller and ate the other himself. This was almost more than the businessman could bear but bristling though he was he took the proffered half and ate it.

After one further flight announcement the backpacker checked his ticket and left followed by a stare from the businessman who was still smarting at the loss of two and a half biscuits. Eventually his own flight was called so he rose, folded the paper and tucked it under his arm, picked up the briefcase and lifted his coat, when suddenly, to his horror, under the coat he saw them. There on the chair was his bag of biscuits! ●

Albania
Bangladesh
Bulgaria
China
Croatia
Nepal
North Africa

SAT 7 ▶

Sri Lanka
South Africa
Thailand
Zaire

(Multi-media communication based in Cyprus)

Audience Relations Manager

Development Officer

Editor/Writer

Production Co-ordinator

Programming Acquisitions Manager

PRODUCERS ▶

Albania — Administration Manager, International Baptist Centre

Bangladesh — Experienced Surgeon
Nursing Training School Consultant (full-time)
Ministers

Bulgaria — Minister for church planting and pastoral work

China — TEFL (English) Teachers for work with Amity Foundation

Croatia — Ministers for church planting, evangelism and pastoral work

Nepal — Dentist(s)
Community Health Doctor
Pastoral couple, Administrative Headquarters
Programme Manager, Community Health Project
Physiotherapist for Leprosy Project
Occupational Therapist for Leprosy Project
Project Director for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Technical Directors for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Office Manager/Trainer for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Medical Officer for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Chest Physician for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Clinic Manager for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Theatre Sister
Midwives
Nurse Tutor
Psychiatrist

North Africa — Director of Personnel
Director of Projects
School Teacher
Research Co-ordinator
Office Manager
Co-ordinator - Community Health Project
Physiotherapist
Occupational Therapists
Special Education Teacher
Special Education Teacher / Recreational Therapist
Medical Director
Social Worker
Preschool Teacher
Midwife
Nurse (Primary Health Care)
Nutritionist
GP Doctor
Dentist
Obstetrician / Gynaecologist
Paediatrician

SAT 7 — (Multi-media communication based in Cyprus)
Audience Relations Manager
Development Officer
Editor/Writer
Production Co-ordinator
Programming Acquisitions Manager
Producers
Graphic Designer
Director of International Development
Researcher
Personnel Director
Accountant/Office Manager
Chief Operations Officer/Station Manager
Chief Engineer
Director of Public Relations

Sri Lanka — One Minister/ministerial couple, long term commitment

Thailand — Urban Ministry in Bangkok. Missionary/missionary couple to assist local pastors

NEEDED URGENTLY

South Africa — Full-time Office Administrator for Baptist Convention office, with a knowledge of accounts and able to develop systems and to train a national

Zaire — Hospital Water Supply Engineer

For more information contact Andrew North at BMS Telephone 01235 512077

E mail 100626.1577@compuserve.com

May / June 1997

RECEIVED
24 -04- 1997
Baptist Theological Seminary Library
Prague
Czech Republic

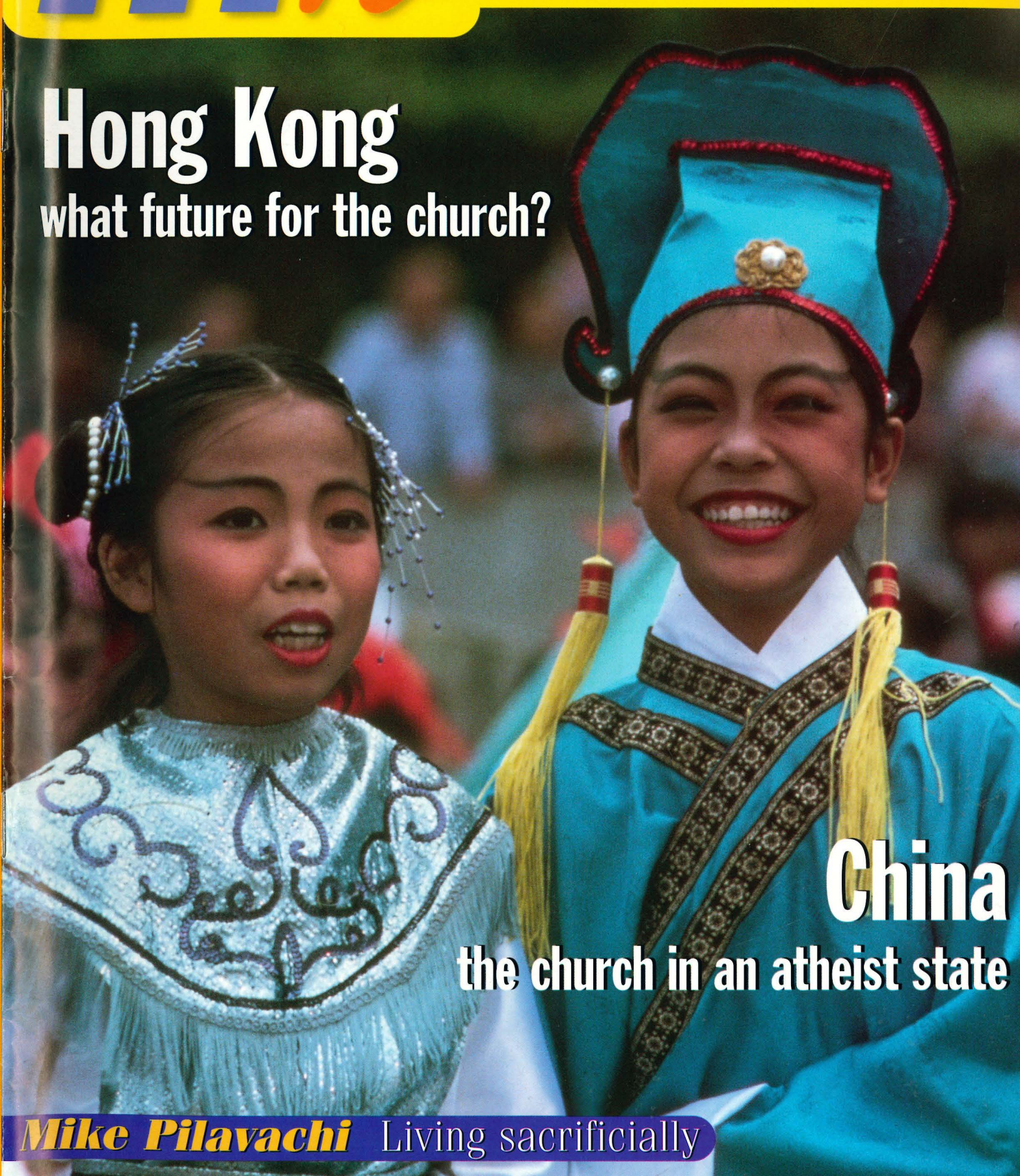
mb

News around the world

Focus on Joinville

Action teams abroad

international



Hong Kong
what future for the church?

China
the church in an atheist state

Mike Pilavachi Living sacrificially

WORLD

cutting edge

Audio tapes

'The best thing to hit Baptist churches in a long while'

'The BMS is really serious about sharing the Good News'

'You've done it! BMS has nailed its colours to the mast'

At The Cutting Edge has made a BIG impact on Baptists around Britain. The national tour by BMS President Carolyn Green has inspired more than 6000 people with the BMS vision to make Jesus known where he isn't known – right around the world.

List of speakers

Keynote speaker cassettes available include:
Alistair Brown
David Coffey
Ian Coffey
Steve Gaukroger
Andrew Green
David Hall
Martin Hewitt
John James
John Lewis
David Martin
Geraint Morse
Alan Pain
John Passmore
Michael Quicke
Peter Dewi Richards
Bill Slack

At each of the 22 Celebration events multi-media presentations unpacked the BMS vision for the 21st century. And guest keynote speakers issued the challenge to be at the cutting edge of mission. Cassette tapes of each keynote speaker are available – on the BMS WorldWide Mastertracks label – in case you weren't able to attend, or want to hear the challenge again.

Price £2.50 each (post free) from BMS, PO Box 49, Baptist House, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8XA.

Audio tape

WORLD

● 'Absolutely superb! You really challenged us' ● 'It's true! The BMS really is at the cutting edge'

ISSUE - HONG KONG

contents

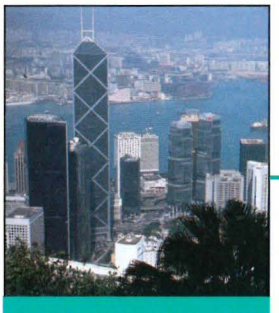
JAN KENDALL

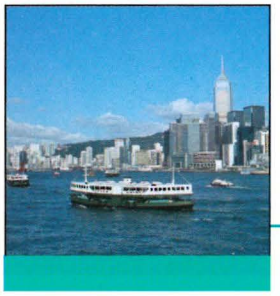
I guess sacrifice is not something we think about a lot. My dictionary gives one definition for it: "the act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else more important or worthy". Well, maybe, we can do it once in a while, but it's easy to slip into the mentality of the age which denies itself nothing.

This issue focuses on the church in China and Hong Kong, something that has been brought to the forefront of all our minds as the handover of Hong Kong to China draws ever nearer. Christians in China over the years have had to make sacrifices, that make our giving up of incidentals look incredibly petty and almost profane. Meanwhile Christians in Hong Kong, having enjoyed a life of comparative security, must now face the unknown, and the uncertainty that brings.

You will also find included with this edition of *mh* your second instalment of the BMS Prayer Guide. Thank you for all your positive comments about the first Prayer Guide; we've been amazed, as always, as to how God has led us to include certain items at specific times - just when they seemed to be needed most! So keep praying! Our God delights to answer our prayers - even if the answers aren't quite what we expected!

Jan





FEATURES

4 GOSPEL IN HONG KONG
New town churchplanting
How the church is going for growth

6 INTERSTING TIMES
Challenge to their faith
Concern about returning to Chinese rule

8 CHURCH IN CHINA
Past, present and future
How the church has developed

10 LORD OF THE CHURCH?
The sleeping tiger
What price religious freedom in China?

11 MIKE PILAVACHI COLUMN

NEWS

12 BMS NEWS
14 WORLD NEWS
16 WORLD MISSION LINK

REGULARS

18 CENTRE SPREAD
Dorothy Smith – mission to Hong Kong

20 OUR TOWN
Joinville, Brazil

26 PASTORS ABROAD
Andrew Phillips visits Italy

28 TAKE TWO
Mission file of facts, figures and background

30 ACTION TEAMS
They're out at the sharp end

32 MISSIONARY DIGEST
Prayer points to support BMS colleagues

35 JOHN PASSMORE
The last word

COVER IMAGE
CHILDREN OF HONG KONG
PHOTO: HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION

NEXT ISSUE JULY-AUGUST
Transmitting the Word
The place of broadcasting and multi-media in the work of sharing the gospel

CREDITS

General Director Alistair Brown

Managing Editor Richard Wells
Editor Jan Kendall

Regular Contributors Alistair Brown, Owen Clark, Sam Gibson, Jan Kendall, John Passmore, Richard Wells.

Design Editor Anthony Viney
Art Editor Sarah Prentice

Director for Missionaries Sian Williams (for enquiries about service)

Printed by Alden Colour Didcot, Oxfordshire

Subscription for 1997 *mh* and BMS Prayer Guide are published as a complate package. £6.00 through church *mh* distributors £7.98 by direct mail (inc p&p). Six issues of *mh* with three of BMS Prayer Guide plus free Annual Review. Overseas p&p at the rate applicable.

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the BMS

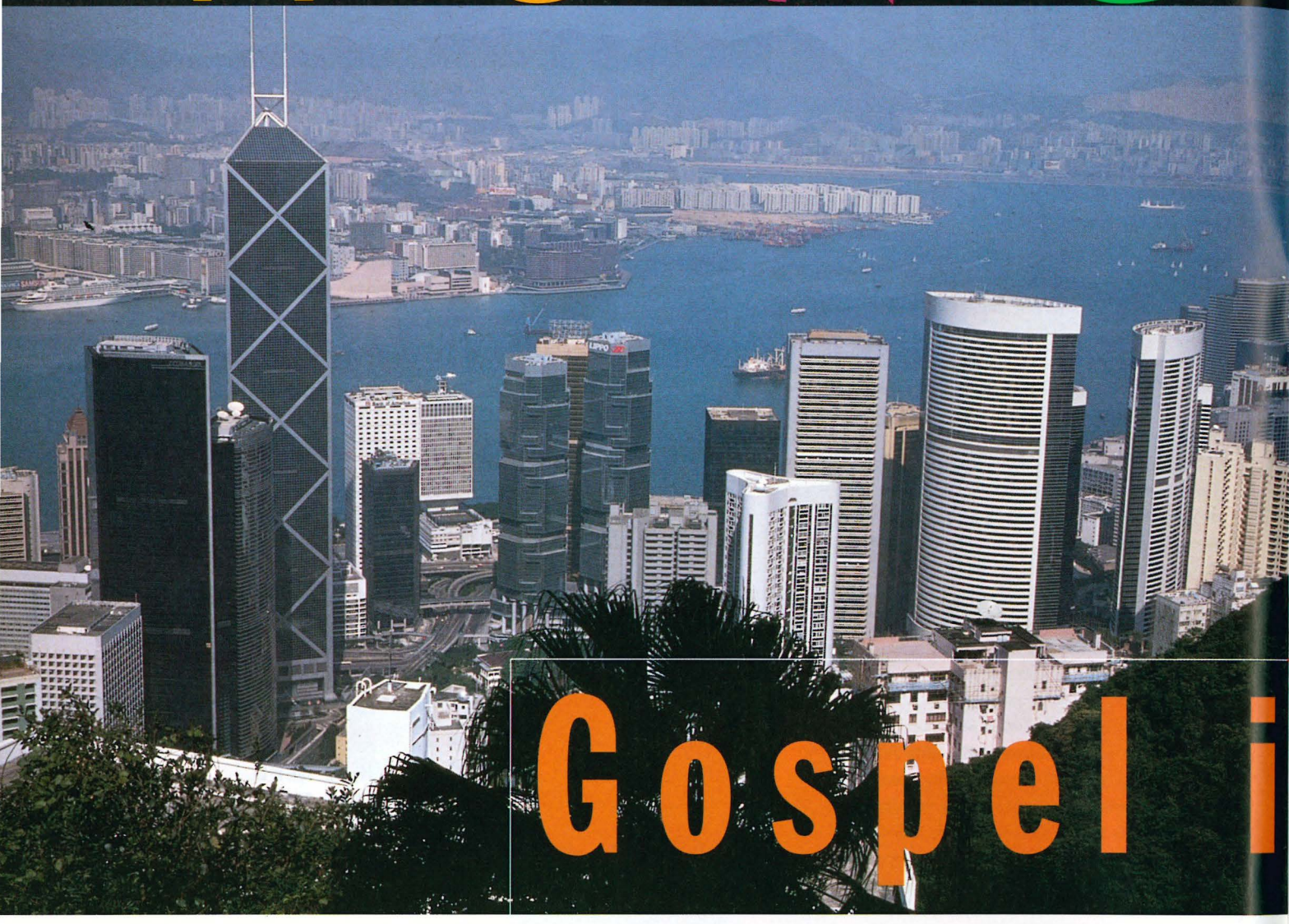
© Copyright 1997 Baptist Missionary Society

Missionary Herald the magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society

Address: PO Box 49, 129 Broadway Didcot Oxon OX11 8XA
Telephone: 01235 512077
Fax: 01235 511265
E-Mail, Editorial: bms_media@cin.co.uk
E-Mail, Other departments: 100626.1577@compuserve.com

Registered charity number 233782

HONG



Gospel i

BY CHRIS REVELEY

Hong Kong: The impressive skyline of a high-tech city but what future awaits its children?

It would appear that Christianity in Hong Kong has a good name. A Chinese colleague phoned me at work a few weeks ago and asked if I could introduce him to someone at Kowloon City Baptist Church. I was pleased to hear that he was suddenly interested in going to church.

He quickly explained that the church ran one of the best kindergartens in Hong Kong and so he was willing to do whatever it took to get his child in there! One University, many hospitals, schools as well as kindergartens, youth centres and elderly centres are run by churches and so Christianity is seen as a good and worthy influence.

And yet the Cantonese slang saying for someone who is too pushy, talkative or salesy is that they are 'talking Jesus'. Christianity has done a good job meeting Hong Kong's social and material needs, yet seems to have by-passed the heart and so still only about five percent of Hong Kong's six million people are Christians..

New Town Church Planting

Over half the population of Hong Kong now live in the area called the New Territories which is characterised by modern 35-storey high-rise blocks with the average family having just 400 square feet in which to live. Organised into estates of 30,000 residents, one can find the population of a town such as Aldershot living on the ground area of about 10 football pitches! The ground floor of each block is reserved by the Government for a social function such as a kindergarten. These services have been 'privatised' so that groups such as churches, who undertake to manage and fund them to regulated standards, then get use of the premises in the evenings and at weekends.

Tai Po Baptist Church has planted a daughter church on the new Fu Heng estate on the edge of town. This involved undertaking to finance and run a 550-children-a-day kindergarten at the bottom of a block. A young local pastor, an elderly Baptist missionary from the USA with a trainee couple from England and 20 committed church members, a

K O N G

few of whom had flats on Fu Heng estate, started a Sunday service and an outreach in 1992. Over the next few years many came to commit themselves to Christ and the church grew to about 120.

Many new Christians were first contacted through the kindergarten. When the social and spiritual elements of the gospel are in unity then the love of God draws people to him. At the beginning of 1997, Pastor Wong, with his wife and daughter, were commissioned by the church to go to France to learn French prior to heading to northern Africa as ambassadors for the gospel.

What future the Hong Kong church?

In the aftermath of the death of Deng and as 1 July 1997 draws closer, the church in Hong Kong faces the challenges of a very different and uncertain future. Although most people do not expect immediate dramatic changes, the new administration may well review a policy that gives churches such a powerful relevance in the community. It may be harder for missionaries to go in or out of Hong Kong. There is some speculation that churches may be required to register as the first step to a greater level of regulation. Fu Heng, along with many other churches, has re-structured and trained up for a cell church model, equipping the Christians and reducing the dependence on pastor or place or Sunday service.

Perhaps God is needing to purify his people here as he has purified and strengthened his church in China. Perhaps, as many believe, this is God's time for Hong Kong and many will turn to him. Perhaps the mixture of the Spirit-filled and dynamic Chinese evangelists coupled with the well-taught and affluent Christians of Hong Kong is a force that is going to change the rest of the world.

What we do know is God is in control and he will work out his purposes. ●

Chris Reveley is married to Lucy and works for the International Bank. They have two children

FOR PRAYER:
Please stand with your brothers and sisters, and, every time you hear Hong Kong mentioned this year, pray for the pastors and the churches, God's people there, during this special time in history.

A social and spiritual

n Hong Kong

MICHAEL MACKEY ASKS A HONG KONG BAPTIST PASTOR HOW THE CHURCH IS FACING THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY THE HANDOVER TO CHINA

Interesti HONG

For Christians in Hong Kong these are, in the words of the traditional Chinese curse, "interesting times". There are both inescapable challenges and opportunities in the period during which the British-run colony will be returned to mainland Chinese rule.

Questions and concerns about the handover have been playing on the mind of Revd Timothy Lam, Senior Pastor at Mongkok Baptist Church.

"As a pastor I have thought of this question for a long time" said Timothy. "I have prepared, like the government, for thirteen years."

Thirteen years ago, the British and Chinese governments agreed in the Joint Declaration, that British-run Hong Kong would be returned to China, who would in turn guarantee Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy.

But many people in Hong Kong have doubts about the Chinese side's sincerity in keeping to their promises, especially after Beijing brutally suppressed the pro-democracy movement in June 1989.

Under British administration people have been left largely to their own devices, as have the churches too. China's communist administrators, however, don't have such a benign view. "We have heard stories about how the Chinese persecute Christians" said Timothy.

Seemingly this attitude has already spilled over into Hong Kong.

The example cited by Timothy concerns the Lutheran Congress planned for July this year which Beijing's effective embassy in Hong Kong, the New China News Agency, attempted to get stopped.

"It's not our understanding that government or government officials should interfere in this sort of thing" said Timothy diplomatically.

"Baptists do not want this sort of thing to happen in Hong Kong. We want to be good citizens, but also want to take care of our own religious affairs on our own" he said firmly.

Not surprisingly when asked about the future, his reply began, "We have to take care of the Church and State relationship."

Many people find what has already happened ominous, and the need to address their concern has added to the workload of the Church. The most obvious problem is emigration.

The figures are telling. In the past ten years Mongkok Baptist Church has lost a total of 100 members. That being said, attendance is plateauing at around 800 members with, on average, 300 attending the Sunday service. The real impact of emigration lies in the effect it has on church leadership.

"Many Christian leaders leave for other countries... Christian leaders see

this and choose not to live under another regime, especially since the events of 4 June 1989" said Timothy, who will himself be staying. "It's God's calling for me to stay. I have to stay; I think it's important" he said.

The evidence he gives to support his statement is anecdotal. Of the theological class he teaches (a mixed bunch of Baptists and other free churches) only one in fifteen churches has not been affected by emigration. Likewise, three of his four predecessors have emigrated and one has gone onto further study.

Lost to emigration are the middle-aged men who have enough experience to be employed elsewhere and enough of their working life left to make it worthwhile. At only 39, Timothy has been the Senior pastor since 1990. "In a church this size I should not take this role but we cannot find a senior pastor" he said. "The young pastors have to take the leadership role."

This is not to say that those who choose to stay, or who cannot leave Hong Kong for whatever reason, are neglected. Much of the Church's work is helping people in this category deal with their problems and overcome the stresses that inevitably arise.

"We equip people, we train them" said Timothy. The key thing here is not just encouraging people to accept these changes and get used to them but to educate them about what is happening. This is done on two levels.

Firstly there is teaching about secular matters such as the Chinese government, culture and communism. Second is Bible study to grow faith.

Timothy views the future realistically. As he pointed out the turbulence of Hong Kong in the past decade means the Christian community is already used to testing times. What he also said, which it is important to remember, is the return to China could actually be beneficial.

"I think this is a time when we have some challenges in our faith ... we have plenty of opportunity. As part of China, I think it will be easier to preach the gospel because we are Chinese" he said.

This might sound far-fetched but there is an intriguing precedent.

In 1979 the Chinese mainland began an "open door policy." This encouraged Hong Kong businesses to move to China, which in less than twenty years created an economic miracle, and started to move China from communism to capitalism. A second miracle could be the spreading of the gospel. ●

Hong Kong: A place where churches are left to their own devices but Timothy Lam (inset) says the Chinese authorities may not take such a benign view

Michael Mackey has lived in Hong Kong for five years, and usually writes about the airline and satellite industries.

CHINA

China: Travel on two wheels is an essential form of transport

The prayer resource book Operation World records that at one time there were 8,500 Protestant missionaries in China. Not many of these were BMS personnel, but BMS did have a presence in China from the1840s until 1952 when the last BMS missionary, Hubert Spillett, left.

Prior to 1949, when the Communists took over, there had been 150 denominations in existence in China. Official figures quote 1,812,000 Protestants and 3,300,000 Catholics in China in 1949. Missiologists at the time lamented the loss of "the China field – the largest single mission field to the godless Communists". The very real fear was that without outside western help the Chinese church would no longer exist.

Maybe these fears had substance: by the late 1950s almost all mission and church properties had either been confiscated or nationalised. The institutional church was brought under the control of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) based on the three self principles of being: self-supporting, self-administering and self-propagating. Dissenters were imprisoned.

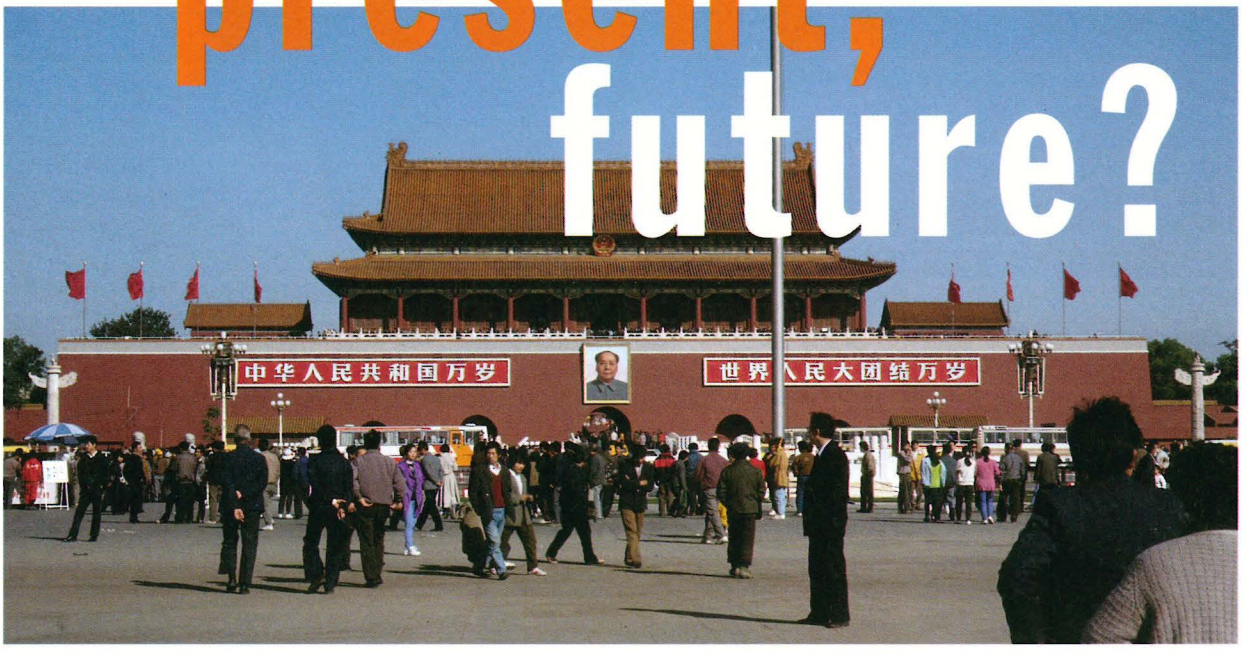
The years of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) saw all public religious activity banned and places of public worship closed. Red Guards stormed believers' homes; bibles and hymn books were publicly burned. But the outside world had no idea what was happening to Christians in China.

In the late 1970s China adopted a more liberal policy and Christianity was once again allowed to exist. And the Christian church in China surprised the world: far from being annihilated or reduced, the suffering church had grown – many times over - in secret. The TSPM was revived and stands today as the only officially recognised Protestant church. Gone are the days of denominations. The government wants to ensure that Christians remain patriotic and independent of foreign influences.

Alongside the TSPM are the house churches, a movement which is especially strong in the countryside. Many Evangelicals see the house churches as the most authentic form of Christianity in China. As many as 100,000 groups of Christians meet in homes for worship, study and fellowship. Some are wary of joining the TSPM because they see it as an extension of government; others belong to both the TSPM and their house church. From 1982 house churches have been asked to register with the TSPM or with local authorities. Those

past, present, future?

JAN KENDALL TAKES AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHURCH IN CHINA.



who refused became targets for closure, and their leaders were arrested or went into hiding.

There is also the Roman Catholic Church in China, recognised as a separate religion by the Chinese government. It has had its own special difficulties in that it has to be independent of the Vatican.

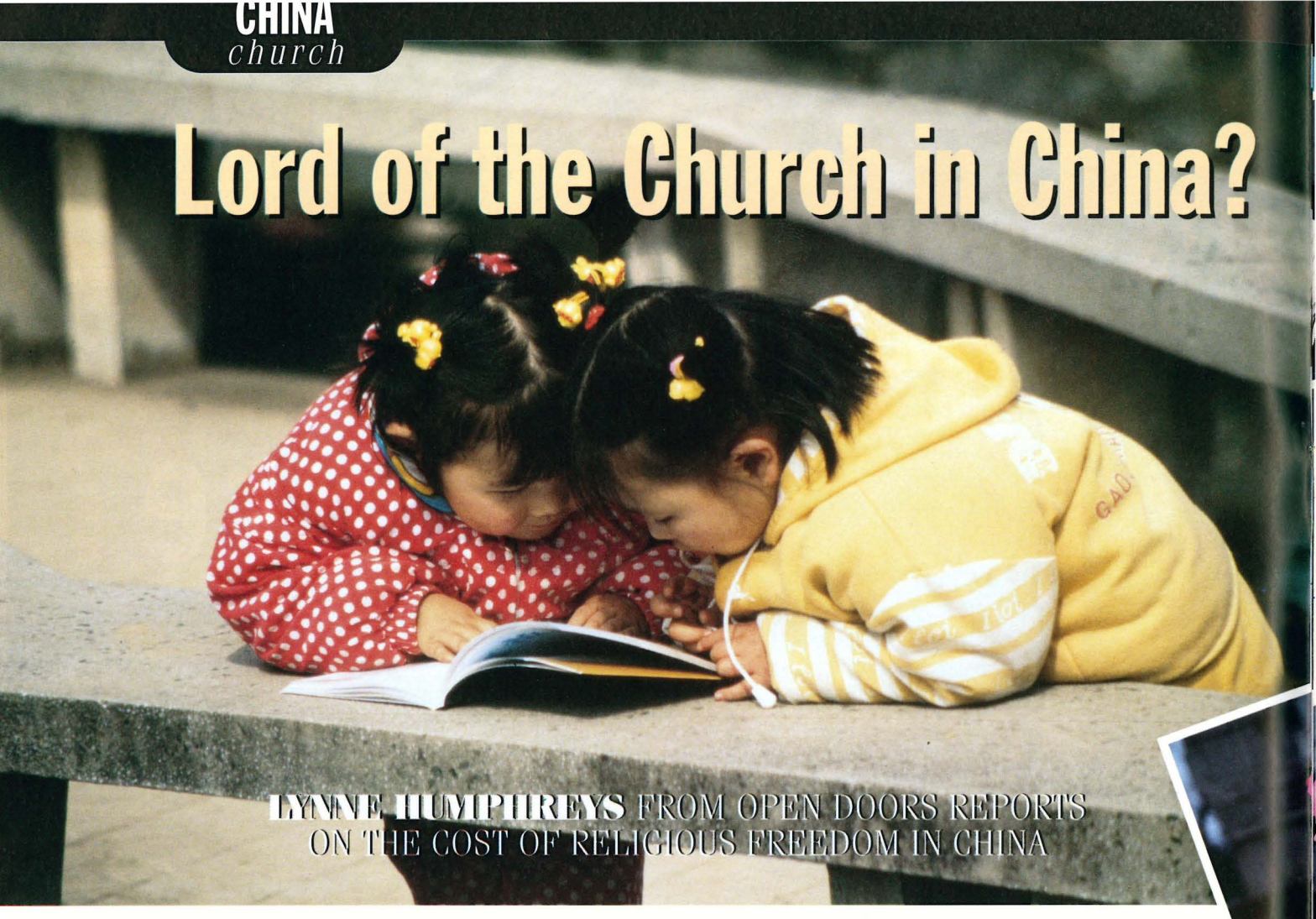
The figures for the number of Christians in China today vary enormously – from ten to 75 million believers. The fact remains however that the Church in China is growing daily, and mostly without funding, trained experts or strategic planning. However it is still only a tiny minority of the 1.2 billion population and faces enormous challenges. Most of its leaders are in their 70s and 80s; most of the lay leaders need training, and most Christians lack even basic teaching. It is a real concern that without sound teaching, groups will go astray and become cults or sects.

Several organisations now exist to promote links between China and Britain and Ireland, the chief of which is the China Forum. There are also other church-related organisations who maintain an interest and seek to support work in China including Open Doors and the Amity Foundation.

And what of BMS? As China is in the 10/40 window, it is included as part of the BMS strategic objectives to focus on mission to the unevangelised and unreached. BMS continues to co-operate with the Amity Foundation, created on the initiative of Chinese Christians and, as such has provided grants for theological education and also seeks personnel who are willing to go to China to teach English as a foreign language. It's a different kind of ministry to that of 100 years ago, much more of a shared one, but since then all the parameters have changed; all, that is apart from the constancy of God. ●

1635 Nestorian monks introduced Christianity to China.
1557 Jesuit missionaries moved inland using Portuguese settlement of Macau
1721 Emperor Kang Xi issued an edict banning Christianity. Christians persecuted for over 100 years
1841 During the first Opium War Britain occupied Hong Kong
1842 China ceded Hong Kong to Britain. First Baptist church began
1949 Communist Party takeover. Catholic church forced to break its relationship with the Vatican. Situation impossible for foreign missionaries
1952 All Protestant missionaries now gone from China
1966-76 Cultural Revolution
1979 Churches begin to re-open.
1980s Newly re-opened churches full. Official church and house churches co-exist, but since 1982 'three-designates' policy hampers house churches.

Lord of the Church in China?



LYNNE HUMPHREYS FROM OPEN DOORS REPORTS ON THE COST OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CHINA

CHINA

Modern China has been described as a great sleeping tiger in the process of awakening. With more than a billion people, this vast nation has seen great change over the last two decades. Despite its openness to world trade and western commercialism, the People's Republic of China is still one of the world's last strongholds of Communism and is tightly ruled by an essentially atheistic anti-Christian regime.

Today, religious policy seems more repressive than ever before. Yet Jiang Zemin and his fellow leaders confidently claim that the Chinese people have freedom of religion. There are millions of silent Christian voices throughout China who would cry out that this is a lie. They don't hesitate to tell support agencies like Open Doors that, as Christians in China, their freedom of belief and worship all depends upon who they bow down to first, God or the Communist party. For them, religious freedom is a relative concept.

The house church movement is vast in numbers and its growth is phenomenal. Open Doors co-workers in China estimate an average of over one million new believers a year. In 1996, the government launched a special campaign to register and thus control all the house churches. When they refused, the punishments and harassments dealt out by police ranged from fines, church raids and Bible confiscation to the burning down of house church buildings.

Christians, both men and women, who refuse to stop preaching and evangelising are arrested, interrogated, beaten with electric batons, tortured, imprisoned and even killed. In May 1996, evangelist Zhang Xiuju from Henan province was beaten to death by police. She was just 36 years old.

One prominent house church pastor in Beijing voluntarily closed down his fellowship recently as a result of pressure and harassment from the Religious Affairs Bureau. Eighty two year old Pastor Allen Yuan has spent over 20 years in prison for his faith; if he did register he would have to provide a list of names and addresses of all his members. They would have to stop teaching children and young people as the Three-Self Patriotic

ABOVE
Eager hands on a children's Chinese Bible

RIGHT
Images of worship Chinese-style

Movement follow the law which states it is illegal to teach under 18s about Christianity. They could not travel outside the cities and into the countryside to preach the Gospel. They could not train lay pastors and evangelists, nor could they receive children's Bibles in Chinese from outside sources.

The supply of Bibles is another challenge. There are huge numbers of new converts in the countryside and they don't have enough Scriptures. One believer said, "In our district we needed more than 200 Chinese Bibles but cannot buy them. The last time I went to Beijing I could only buy ten copies as the Three Self controls their sale.".

China watchers claim that through God's power and grace, it is the house church Christians who are largely responsible for the growth of the Church in China. Maybe that is because they won't compromise. Maybe it is because they are prepared to give up everything and lay down their lives for the Gospel. Perhaps they have a lot to teach us in the West about counting the cost as they decide 'who is Lord of the Church in China? Jesus Christ or the Communist Party?' ●

'Open Doors' is a Christian organisation working throughout the world to help believers who are persecuted and suffering for their faith.

Mike Pilavachi

Living Sacrificially

We live in an age of instant everything. This is the Big Mac society. Shopping centres where everything is laid out and comfortable and convenient. Megastores that have everything. Noodles that you only have to pour boiling water over and they are ready. Instantly. These are great advances and personally, I love them. I have just joined the technological revolution, bought myself a computer and regularly surf the internet!

The only trouble with all this is that many of us also demand instant Christianity and convenient pre-packed Church. We love the promises of scripture and "claim" them for all we are worth, but the demands of Scripture we carefully avoid.

We "want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection" but leave out the last part of Philippians 3:10 which goes on to say "and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death". I am realising more and more that we cannot in any meaningful way know Christ without sharing in the fellowship of his sufferings. What is more, Christ's sufferings are not only those burdens which life throws at us, they are something which we choose. We choose to share in his sufferings every time we decide to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him. To be meaningful this has to be specific. I deny myself when I choose to listen to someone who is hurting and give them my full attention when I would much rather go to bed. I take up my cross each time I decide to forgive and let go when I have been unjustly treated. I follow him as I strive to be obedient to the voice of my Father in heaven every day of my life. For many Christians in China and Hong Kong this is a way of life. Not simply the Jackie Pullingers and other well-known ones, but brothers and sisters who we will never hear about until we meet them in heaven.

We live like this in order to know Christ but we also live like this because we know Christ. We love because he first loved us. It is the goodness of God which leads us to repentance. When we catch a vision of him, when we see him as he is, then we love him and want to obey him. When he captivates our hearts then our response is to pour out our lives in worship. The sinful woman poured perfume worth a year's wages over Jesus. An extravagant love for an extravagant love.

Oswald Chambers wrote of our abandoning ourselves to his purposes by saying "The consequence of abandonment never enters into our outlook because our life is taken up with him." ●

Mike Pilavachi heads up the Soul Survivor team and pastors a congregation in Watford specially aimed at reaching young people.

News

New Project 97

The nature of BMS projects has changed over the years, and so, too have the groups that support them. Nowadays the BMS Project of the Year is supported by women's groups, men's groups, mums and toddlers' groups, and house groups.

'Project 97: A Piece of the Action' is raising money to support the work of 28:19 Action Teams, young people who are making Jesus known all over the world.

It costs £16,000 to send just one Action Team overseas, and the number of teams BMS sends is conditional upon how much money is received.

This year the Project material is vividly presented in a video and accompanying workbook.

Skills to survive

You'll be able to read all about this year's joint Operation Agri and BMS Harvest Project, 'Skills to Survive' in a special new full colour booklet that will be included free with every copy of the July/August ***mh***.

At all sorts of different levels people can learn skills that help them survive, and this year's Project is raising money to help them learn these skills.

There will be lots of information and ideas presented in an enjoyable way to help you and your church prepare for this year's Harvest. Additional items will be available by mail order.

Barnabas Project

The Barnabas Project seeks to respond to the needs of partner churches by sending out skilled volunteers for a short period. At present 20 volunteers are involved in teaching, nursing, building, and church work in countries as far afield as Croatia, India, Nepal, Serbia, and Zaire. Some have just left college; others are retired. But for all of them meeting and working with people from partner churches is a life-changing experience.

As for practical details, volunteers need to cover the cost of training, flights, travel and medical insurance. BMS is responsible for board and lodgings overseas and any travel expenses incurred with UK church visiting.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Barnabas Project contact Andy Wilson, the Barnabas Project Co-ordinator at BMS Didcot 01235 512077.

News in Brief

What's another year? Carolyn Green reflects

"How's the year going?"
"You must be exhausted!"
"When's it all over?"
The conversation tends to revolve around the answers to these questions which could be summarised as 'Great!', 'Yes!' and 'Soon!' - in that order.

My year as BMS President will probably be over by the time you read this, but my commitment to what is going on in the world church feels as if it's only just starting.

It's been brilliant to see many of my hopes for this year realised. I've spoken to over 500 church leaders and 1500 mission support workers. I've seen and heard the challenge to personal commitment to world mission shared with over 5000 people in Scotland, England and Wales. I've been thrilled by the practical preaching support of many leaders in Baptist life. I've been terrified at the thought of speaking to theological students, and then discovered they're pretty normal folk who do speak a language I understand after all! South Wales Baptist College, the Scottish Baptist College, Northern College, Spurgeon's College and London Bible College... to name a few! Women's conferences, and meetings

with missionaries' wives in London and the South West have filled me with dread before the event. Of addressing the Mainstream or BMM conference… you do not want to hear of the pre-talk nerves. Amongst all of that has been invitations to share in Sunday worship with refreshingly normal congregations, chair working groups at Didcot and in Calcutta, become involved with Candidate Board and with 28:19 selection. I've also had the strong support of my family and my home church which I appreciate even more than ever.

That's some of what has been done. What has been achieved?

Some of what's been achieved I do know already. Perceptions of world mission involvement as being the task of a strange and holy few have been challenged. Hundreds of people have had to ask themselves what they are doing to make Jesus known at home and abroad. Many also have had to look again at what they thought BMS was up to. Were they accurate? Were they maybe even wrong? Would they be prepared to find out if God was calling them to risk everything for him?

The long term results are not up to me... and not even up to BMS in a way. They will be between individuals and their God. People have been presented, and will keep on being presented, with the challenge of Jesus. 'Go and make disciples *of all nations* …' and if you are called to this nation, make sure you release the resources and personnel for the task to be accomplished.

This has been a brilliant year… but I believe the best is yet to come!

PIPS Update

Project 7031 Support for Nepali Hospitals
Target £5000

Since 1954, the earliest days of Christian witness in Nepal, the United Mission to Nepal has been committed to providing medical care to the poor. There are just four main hospitals: one in Kathmandu (Patan), and three in outlying areas: Okhaldunga - several days walk from the nearest road; Tansen - on a hilltop in the rural west; and Amp Pipal - in the Gorkha region.

Every hospital charges

what it can from the patients who can afford to pay even a little. Patan hospital has recently opened some private rooms where the wealthier residents of Kathmandu pay for better rooms, subsidising the rest of the hospital. Thus it is hoped that within a couple of years Patan will be independent of the current grant from the UMN Hospital Assistance Fund. In the long term, the rural hospitals need to embark on a fund-raising programme, but in the meantime there is still a need for a central fund from which support can be given in order to cover the costs of the poorest who will never be able to pay for treatment.

It is to this fund that BMS is committed to making an annual contribution. Without it UMN hospitals would have to stop treating those whose very lives depend on 'care without charge.'

Globally minded

Our money box globes are very popular with you all, and we're delighted about that. You faithfully fill them with coins and notes, and some of you even have globe opening ceremonies at church, which all help with raising funds for BMS.

The only trouble is…we're running out of them at Didcot, and they are expensive to re-order. Each globe costs us the best part of £5 for the product itself plus packaging and posting. This means you need to collect £5 before we're even in a break even situation.

So before we spend valuable funds and order some more globes, we'd like to issue you with a challenge. Are you using your globes? If you are, great! Please carry on, fill them up and send the money in to us. (It would be helpful if you could put a note in with your remittance advice telling us the money came from a globe collection.)

If you no longer need your globe, and it's in good condition, please send it back to your co-ordinator or to BMS Didcot. We'll then be able to pass it on to someone else that wants one.

BMS WEB SITE

If you are interested in mission and you want to stay on-line and up-to-date – bookmark our Web Site. You will find the latest prayer needs, opportunities for service and much more. So if you are part of the on-line Baptist community check us out at:

www.rpc.ox.ac.uk/bms/index.htm

BMS On-line finding new ways of helping British Baptists to create links world wide.

Baptist House News

Goodbye

At the end of February Finance Manager Jim Neilson left BMS along with his wife Christine to start a new life in New Zealand. Jim has taken up pastoral responsibilities at Thames Baptist Church, North Island and Christine (formerly Literature Secretary in the Department for Constituency Support) has found work as the manager of a dental practice.

…and hello

To take on the responsibilities left by this gap, Marian Rudall was appointed as Finance Manager at the March General Committee.

Marian's first real contact with BMS came in 1976 when she and her husband Mark came to be interviewed for an administration job in Zaire. They were offered it, but decided it was not right to pursue and Mark went on to train for ministry at Regent's College.

Marian has worked in accounts offices for most of her working life and joined the (then) Finance Department at BMS in 1991 as an Accounts Clerk. Since then she has been promoted to Senior Accounts Clerk and has tackled just about all the different tasks that a busy accounts office can offer.

"It's all happened so fast!" she commented. "But I'm both surprised and delighted. The Finance and Administration Department is a good team, and I'm happy to be working together with them for the good of the Society."

Andy Smith

As we preparing this magazine Andy, BMS Audio-Visual Co-ordinator, is still in hospital, waiting for his next chemotherapy session. His treatment has been complicated by other medical difficulties encountered along the way, but he remains resiliant in spirit and shows a remarkable cheerfulness in all that has happened. Please continue to remember Andy and his family in your prayers. ●

BMS news

Cameroon

A new Baptist hospital near Nkoteng, Cameroon, will soon open serving a region of 20,000 to 30,000 inhabitants who currently have no nearby medical care. European Baptist Mission Doctor Antonio Barnady from Spain has arrived in the country with his family and is helping to prepare the hospital for its opening. The Union of Baptist Churches in Cameroon will also be providing ministry services for the patients and their families. (EBPS)

Macau

YWAM have launched a campaign in which they hope to deliver a Bible to every home in the former Portuguese colony before it reverts to Chinese rule in 1999. (YWAM News)

Italy

Baptist Pastor Adriana Cavina is one of three ministers who have been chosen to serve the Protestant Chapel now open at Rome Airport. A Lutheran Pastor and a Seventh Day Adventist were also chosen. The selections were co-ordinated through the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy, to which the Italian Baptist Union belongs. (EBPS)

Rwanda

A dramatic meeting took place in prison between a widow and her husband's murderer. Both had become Christians since the killing, and the widow explained how she had been praying for the man who killed her family. He, in turn, wanted to ask her forgiveness for what he had done. Since then she has returned to the prison to take in food to supplement the man's meagre diet. (YWAM News)

World Wide Web

The Bible is going 'on line' in many European languages. The complete Arabic Bible is the latest addition to the International Bible Society's Internet web pages and thus is providing access to the Bible in places around the world where having a Bible is unknown or dangerous. During 1997 IBS plans to add Bible translations to its internet service in Armenian, Croatian, Indonesian, Latvian, Macedonian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovakian, Thai, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. (EBPS)

News in Brief

News

Belgian Baptists appeal

Samuel Verhaeghe, the General Secretary of the Belgian Baptist Union, has made a direct appeal for the discrimination against Belgian Baptists to end, and for Baptists and other evangelicals to be officially recognised.

Appeal for an end to discrimination: Samuel Verhaeghe (left) has a similar challenge to Dr Renato Maiocchi, President of the Italian Baptist Union

The present situation in this predominantly Roman Catholic country means recognition only of the United Protestant Church of Belgium (which, in terms of churches is half the size of the Federation of Belgian Evangelical churches), a small Anglican church and a small Orthodox church. Evangelicals do not recognise the United Protestant Church, which is Reformed in its theology, as its official representative, nor do they have any influence in its government. The Belgian Baptists say the fact that the largest non-Catholic group of churches is not recognised is discrimination, especially as it was only a few years ago that the Belgian government recognised the very small Orthodox church.

Up to this point in time the Belgian Baptists have been prepared to keep a low profile in the hope that events would change. But now in a change of policy they are seeking the support of partner bodies (including BMS) and individuals. They are asking for the support of any who would write to the Belgian Minister of Justice pleading for their cause, asking for official recognition, and emphasising that Evangelical Protestants belong to a worldwide family of about 500 million Evangelicals, living in all countries in Europe, and that they are not a sect.

Write to: The Minister of Justice, Mr Stefaan DE CLERCK, Waterloolaan, 115 1000, Brussels, Belgium. Because they would like to gauge support levels Samuel would also appreciate a copy of your letter: you can send it to BMS Didcot and we will pass it on.

FEDERATION OF BELGIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES		UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH OF BELGIUM	
French speaking	125 churches or 65%	French speaking	70 churches or 35%
Flemish speaking	100 churches or 74%	Flemish speaking	34 churches or 26%

Section from a Belgian school text book (in translation)

SECT: A closed religious group, created or defining itself in opposition to dominant religious ideas and practices. (Larousse)

1 SECTS OF BIBLICAL ORIGIN These can be categorised according to three

tendencies:

- Those who believe that the end of the world is imminent (and who often give a date for it). Millenialists, Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and other groups, fall into this category.
- *Renewal groups, who look to a revival of the Church based on a return to the Bible and prayer. Baptists, Mennonites, Methodists, Pentecostals, Brethren (all sects which have issued from Protestantism) are here; but so are Quakers, Salvationists, Hellenists, Christian Scientists etc.*
- Modernists, meaning here those sects claiming to take a special interest in the ills from which men suffer, and to heal them: The Friends of Man, Scientology, Transcendental Meditation etc

2 EASTERN SECTS Hare Krishna, Shri Mataji etc

3 ISLAMIC SECTS Wannabism, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Ba'hai faith etc

THE ATTRACTION OF THE SECTS

The sects are seen by some as being able to give them what the religions no longer can. In this unstable world in which we are living, some people feel the need to believe something, and to give themselves to helping others. The Salvation Army springs to mind, and their collections for the poor; or again, the Ba'hais whose teaching is based on the values of kindness, fraternity, refusal of alcohol etc.

Child labour in Latin America

The 1997 UNICEF report on the state of the world's children claims that "exploitative child labour" is one of the worst possible infringements of the rights of boys and girls.

Figures for child labour in Latin America claim that one out of every five children works. It is estimated that 18 million children between the ages of five and 14 work, usually in domestic service, in the home or in the fields.

It is claimed that girls work more hours than boys, get paid less, and are denied access to education in more cases. They are also exposed to greater risk, such as sexual abuse.

UNICEF concludes that any programme aimed at combating child labour will only be successful if it takes into account the special dangers girls encounter.

Alistair Brown

Open Channels in closed countries

I was lining up the shot of a donkey cart 'taxi' rank, paused because one cart got in the way, and then the young lady in the short skirt walked past. I just had to click the shutter.

For this was a small town in northern Senegal. In a Muslim country, in a rural backwater, the young lady was well out of line with custom, making a strong statement that she didn't identify with the old ways. She was more interested in modern, western fashion than observing the traditional dress code for Muslim women.

Throughout the world, satellite dishes are sprouting on flat roofed (even thatched roof) houses. Secular images are flooding minds, stirring new ideas. A quiet revolution is happening. People are changing. My goal is that when minds are open they get the chance to be open to Jesus. Mission has never had a greater opportunity than it has right now.

New religious freedom law in Macedonia

The most restrictive religious laws in Europe have been proposed in the Republic of Macedonia, part of the former Yugoslavia.

Macedonia is believed to be one of the least evangelised countries in Europe, with only 400-500 born-again believers.

Most of its inhabitants are Slavic Orthodox or Muslim.

A draft law concerning religious freedoms in Macedonia has already been sent to certain religious groups (the Macedonian Orthodox church, the Catholic Church and the Islamic Organisation) but not to any Protestant or evangelical representatives, according to a report by Baptists in the country.

When the Baptists and evangelicals were able to see a copy, this led to further concerns:

- the term 'Church' is to be reserved for the Macedonian Orthodox Church only
- the possibility of Alliances or Associations of Churches or other Interdenominational Organisations is to be denied
- Churches will not be allowed public activities such as conferences, distribution of Bibles or religious literature. Such activities are to be restricted to within church buildings, and in quantities no greater than the membership of a particular local church
- penalties for Protestant church leaders will be high, (up to an average one year's income)
- massive restrictions on visiting speakers
- foreign missionaries will be forbidden to engage in legal work within a church or as part of a legal missionary organisation

Christians in the West are being urged to write either to Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski, Vlada na Republika Makedonija, 91000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia or to Minister Vladimir Naumovski (main author of the draft law for religious groups) at the same address, upholding the rights of all Macedonians in drafting their religious freedom law.

WORLD news

Letter to the WML desk

Dear Audrey,

I enclose the completed Link-Up Evaluation form, we had a lovely visit. Our women's meeting made some displays and many said how good it was to hear about mission in another country. But we won't have another visit for two years. It's difficult to keep people interested when we have to wait so long before we can have another Missionary weekend.

Why wait? Go ahead, organise a weekend now. Ask your BMS Co-ordinator about the possibility of a World Mission Link Speaker. Get people together to talk about what they want to do. Use the BMS Resources Catalogue - there's lots of material available. And, if you want more ideas, try PowerPack.

We like the Link-Up Scheme but are sad that we now only seem to hear about one country. Our minister has asked me to write to you and ask if we can have a second Link-Up, someone from another country.

I'm afraid it is not possible for Link-Up groups to have more than one Link-Up. If some groups had two Link-Ups we'd have to tell other groups that they couldn't even have one. But having only one Link-Up should not limit your church to one country and there are many ways your church can find out about what is happening in other parts of the world. Here are some ideas

- **use the Missionary Herald; every edition is packed with up-to-date information**
- **see that the Prayer Guide that comes with Herald is used each week in your church**
- **encourage church organisations to get involved in the BMS projects. In the past two years there have been projects about Zimbabwe, Albania and India.**
- **buy a copy of the BMS video 'Making Jesus Known'**
- **order BMS News for your church newsletter; all you have to do is photocopy it and you will have a world mission insert for everyone**
- **talk to your BMS Co-ordinator or people at Didcot about any displays available**
- **decide a country theme for your next BMS event, book a speaker through your BMS Co-ordinator, and order resources from Didcot.**
- **And don't forget to tell your Link-Up missionary what you are doing when you write; they will be delighted to be involved with a church which has a passion for world mission!**

Audrey

Notice Board

What is the first thing you do when you go to a new church? There are some folk who head for the World Mission Notice

Board; after all what's on the board will say a lot about the church and its involvement in world mission. What would people see if they stood in front of the World Mission Notice Board in your church?

Over the past weeks the following have been seen in churches:

- a 1995 Praying with Missionaries poster
- a prayer letter from a missionary with the back page missing
- a missionary prayer card covered with drawing pin holes, (address unreadable)
- several notices about a BMS event that took place two months previously
- even more notices about events that took place in other churches one, two and even three months ago
- a creased, torn or grubby Link-Up missionary profile
- a copy of Nov/Dec *mh* under the sign - New, Read Now!!
- a notice advertising BMS Deputation Weekend
- colour faded order forms for Missionary Herald and WOW
- and the lovely big notice board, in a conspicuous place entitled

WORLD MISSION BOARD

Of course your church's World Mission notice board isn't like have any of these, is it...?

When did you really look at your World Mission notice board? Is it up-to-date, attractive, easy to read? Or is it saying that world mission is unimportant, out-of-date, dull and uninteresting?

Now is a good time to give your notice board a facelift - check the notices, renew the missionary information, throw away torn or crumbled material, put up an interesting display. Make your notice board so attractive that people will stop, look and read. And when you've finished, remember that a good notice board is one that is renewed regularly so put some renewal dates in your diary.

Getting it Taped

When a service was broadcast recently from Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abertillery, by BBC Radio, the congregation quickly used the occasion to raise money for BMS. Audio cassettes of the service, (which was led by their minister Keith Fanthum) were produced and made available to the church for £2 each. After covering their costs the church was able to send £67.50 to BMS.

Inspiration, motivation, ideas, news on world mission for churches

ission Link

Eurostar backs Eurorev!

When Philip Halliday, BMS missionary and minister of Massy Language School, Paris, invited Clive Doubleday, minister of Poverest Road Baptist Church, Orpington, Kent to preach on the morning of Palm Sunday, he did not quite know where all this would lead to.

Clive accepted the invitation, but soon realised he needed to be back at his own church for the evening service on Palm Sunday 23 March and the only possible way of preaching in the two countries on the same Sunday was Eurostar! Clive contacted Eurostar and asked if they would sponsor the preach. They said they had never been asked to sponsor such a unique event and agreed to donate a free return train ticket to Paris on Eurostar; Clive is pictured (right) receiving his ticket from Keith Grey, Eurostar Manager.

The concept began to snowball. BMS have a number of missionaries in France besides Philip and Rosemary Halliday; so why no use this opportunity for raising finance and the profile of BMS work in France?

Clive then produced a leaflet giving notice of the preach which went out to every church with the March/April *mh* so that both churches and individuals could sponsor him for covering the 420 miles, the distance between London and Paris. Even well after the event he's still happy to accept donations for the work of BMS.

Clive's Sponsored Preach total to April 2: £1000

WOW it's Amazing

A Cheshire church which set out to raise £100 for the WOW project surprised itself by raising nearly three times that amount. The whole church took the project on board, from the very youngest who collected money in sweet tubes, and two twelve year olds who decided to go on a sponsored walk, to just about everyone who attended an Indian "Dinner for Deepa". They are now looking forward to the next project 'Globetrotters' and have made every first Sunday of the month a WOW Sunday.

Dates for your Diary

Events and Meetings

Wednesday 7 May
Wales WMA Annual Meetings (bilingual), Newtown Baptist Church
Further details - Delyth Wyn Davies 01766 512957

Thursday 8 May
Nottingham BMS Support Group Resources Evening, Mansfield Road Baptist Church
Further details - Joan Manicom 0115 962 3235

Wednesday 14 May
Carmarthen and Cardigan Association (Welsh) Missionary meeting, Tabernacl, Carmarthen
Further details - Nesta Harries 01570 42214

Friday 16 May
Baptist Union of Wales English Assembly Missionary Service, Maesyrhelem Baptist Church
Further details - Hayden Davies 01597 840688

Saturday 17 May
Southern Association Mission Secretary's Training, Testwood, Totton
Further details - Phil Hindle 01823 698977

Thursday 29 May
Pembroke English Association Annual meeting, Hebron, Saundersfoot
Further details - Haulwen Nicholas 01834 813567

Monday 2 June
West of Scotland Women's Rally, Hillhead Baptist Church, Glasgow
Further details - Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Wednesday 4 June
Pembrokeshire Welsh Association Annual Meeting, Jabes, Cwm Gwaun
Further details - Anna Williams 01239 820433

Saturday-Sunday 7-8 June
Orpington Group BMS Weekend
Further details - Allan Davies 0181 462 6808

Saturday 14 June
Stockport Churches BMS evening
Further details - Karen Bennett 01625 879205

Friday-Saturday-Sunday 20-22 June
Former Missionaries Association, re-union at Hothorpe Hall
Further details Neil McVicar 0141 638 4943

Saturday 21 June
Northern Association Family Day at Gateshead
Further details - Margaret Barnett 01207 504023

Saturday 5 July
East Surrey Region Mission Event
Further details - Stan Crees 0181 647 2441

We can't all be Dorothy S

SAM GIBSON WENT TO MEET DOROTHY SMITH, BMS MISSIONARY IN HONG KONG (1962–82)

I knew little of Dorothy Smith before I met her but I count it a real privilege to have been able to hear the story of her remarkable life. Through her time as a missionary and later back in the UK, Dorothy has touched thousands of lives, affecting many of them for the better.

Dorothy knew at the age of 14 that she was going to be a missionary. She trained as a TB and general nurse thinking, "it might be useful" then made an open offer to BMS. God's hand is clearly seen in the process which opened up a placement for a nurse with Dorothy's exact qualifications at Rennie's Mill Medical Centre, Junk Bay, Hong Kong, and on 22 August 1962, at the age of 28, Dorothy got on 'a slow boat to China'. The journey took five and a half weeks.

The clinic at Rennie's Mill was open 24 hours a day, serving the thousands of refugees living in nearby shanty towns. Dorothy's first task was to help plan a new building, as the clinic had been flattened by a typhoon just prior to her arrival. Other responsibilities included general management and administration, examining and treating patients, running the maternity ward, organising mass inoculations, promoting community nursing and organising Christmas parties. In her spare time (!), Dorothy ran a Girl Guide unit, rescued and treated abused dogs and cats and even on occasion – monkeys!

Dorothy still felt she could do more however. In 1969 she took in Simon, a refugee boy, later adopting him and taking him to England. Throughout the 1970s, she offered her home to anyone in need – people recovering from surgery, alcoholics, drug addicts, children needing foster care, and battered wives as well as Christian workers from overseas. Dorothy has always been quick to share the love of God in practical ways.

In 1979 she took in Gemma, a baby whom she later adopted. Having a small baby to take care of made nursing difficult and, as there was a Chinese nurse able to take over from her, after 17 years it seemed the right time to leave Rennie's Mill. In 1980, inspired by previous voluntary work at a home for abandoned children in the Philippines, Dorothy went into full time children's work at a home in Hong Kong. Taking care of the everyday needs of nine four to ten year olds as well as baby Gemma was an exhausting experience.

Dorothy came back to the UK temporarily with Gemma in 1982 but family commitments forced her to stay. For Dorothy, Hong Kong was home and it was difficult to settle back into Britain but she set up home in Oxfordshire, continuing her ministry in another way. Registering as a foster mother, Dorothy has offered care to many children and up until a few years ago, she maintained an open house policy. "Isn't that risky for a single lady?" I ask. "I was never worried" Dorothy replies, "but you do have to be called to it. If you care about your home or your belongings you can't do it; you have to be prepared for your life and your family to face crises."

Dorothy, an elder of Hook Norton Baptist Church, now cares for her mother full time, but at the age of 63, when many people are looking to retirement, Dorothy's story still goes on. "Unfortunately I never got back to Hong Kong," she says, "but I still hope. I would like to work in a Chinese orphanage if circumstances permit. Otherwise I had always intended to become an artist or writer, but it is God's hands."

A remarkable life. "It must be good to look back and know you have helped so many people", I say. Dorothy's response is unexpected, "Do you know, you are the only person I've spoken to recently who hasn't asked if I know Jackie Pullinger." As it happens she is good friends with Jackie. "When I compare what the Lord has done through Jackie, then I ask myself, 'what have I done?' But, we can't all be Jackie Pullingers." My response would be, "We can't all be Dorothy Smiths", but I know she wouldn't agree. ●

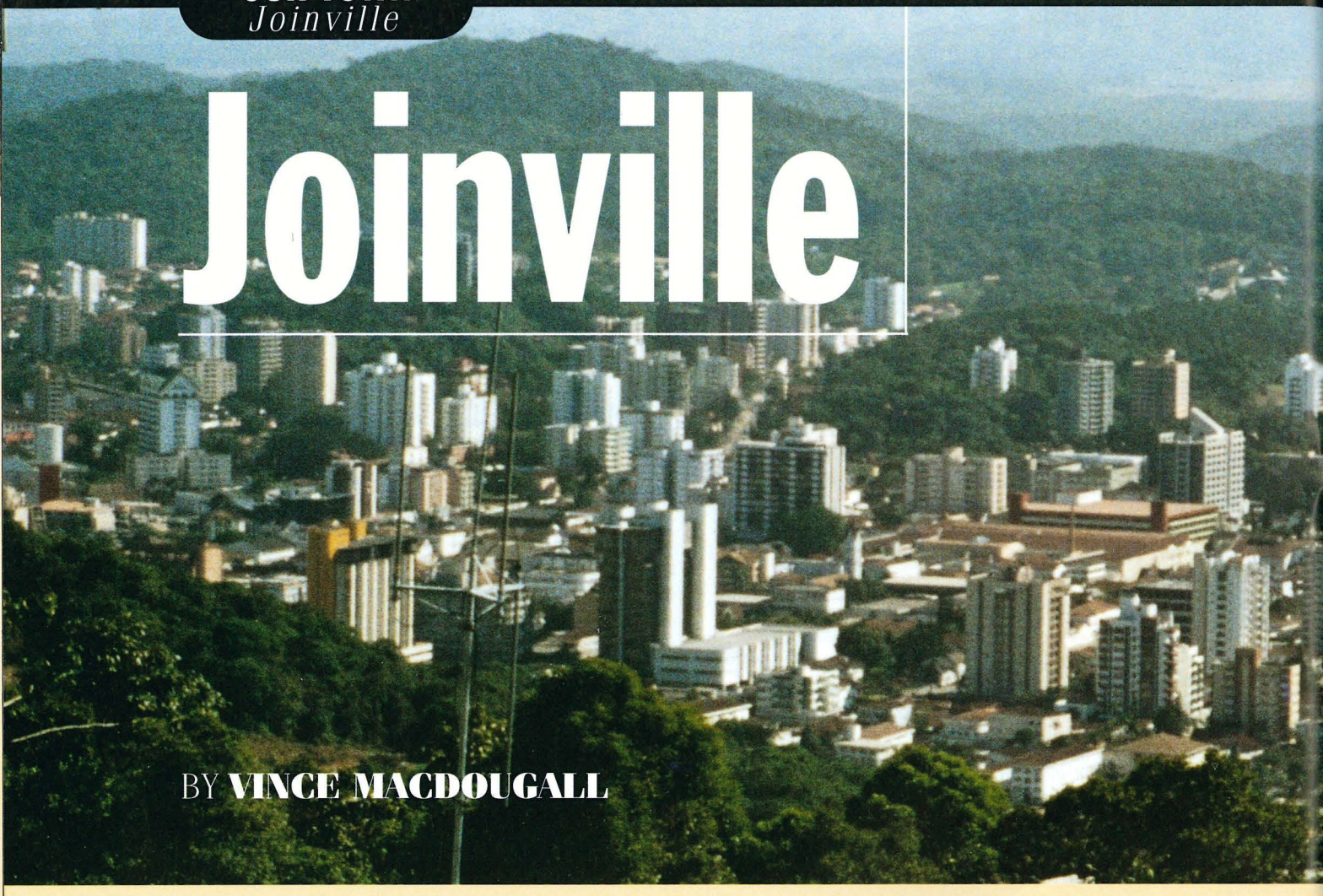
BACKDROP
Modern Hong Kong harbour

INSETS
Dorothy and friend Irene at Woolwich docks, London, on the day of her departure by sea for Hong Kong

New Haven of Hope hospital near Rennie's Mill where Dorothy served

mith

Joinville



BY **VINCE MACDOUGALL**

Joinville

Introduction

Joinville (pronounced Jon - villi) is considered by many to be one of the best cities in Brazil. Best because of the quality of life, pleasant climate and surroundings, and the distinct European flavour. The city boasts that it has a German accent. The architecture, city planning, restaurants, festivals, Lutheran churches and the distinctive features of many of its citizens are what gives Joinville a German accent.

History

In 1843, the son of the French King, Louis Philip, received a large land gift in southern Brazil from his father-in-law, Don Pedro of Portugal. The young prince sold this land in 1849 to a group of land speculators who were able to convince 118 immigrants from Germany, Sweden and Norway to settle in what is now Joinville. These settlers who arrived in 1851 were cultured, educated, hard workers who quickly transformed the land into the Europe of South America. Today the population exceeds 500,000 and the city is the largest industrial centre of Santa Catarina. Production includes household appliances, textiles, steel, industrial machinery and supplies for the car industry. Joinville has even been nicknamed the Manchester of South America.

Geography

1,188 square kilometres
3 metres above sea level
Set among mango swamps
Surrounded by mountains
Set in the South Atlantic rain forest

Climate

Sub tropical, and very humid
Average summer temperature 35 deg. C
Average winter temperature 15 deg. C
High rain fall

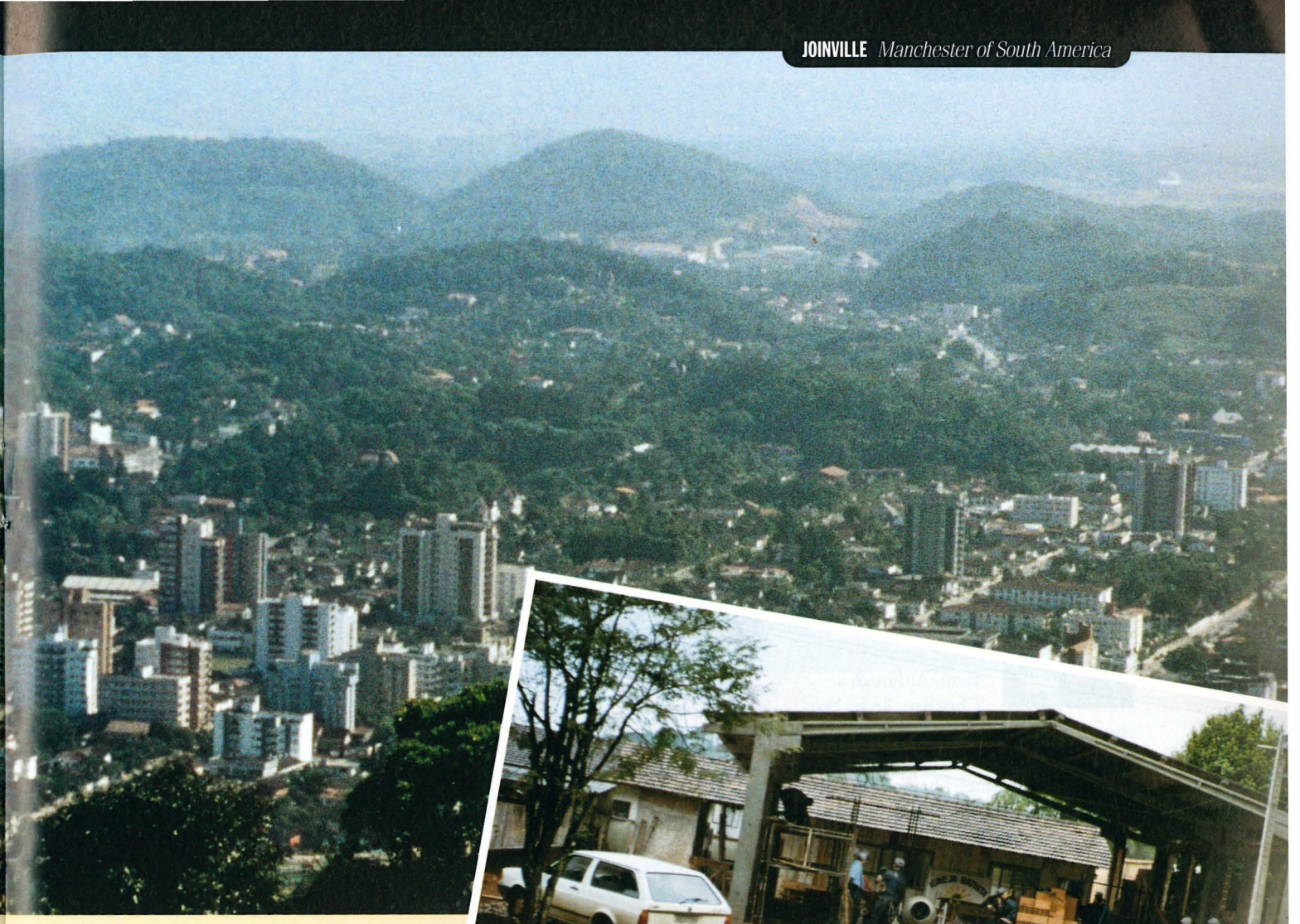
First impressions

by Trevor Rowe

Joinville feels more like Europe than Brazil. It is a city with many smart buildings; the older ones reflect the culture of Germany and the Mediterranean countries. It is well organised with friendly people from many different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. It is a city on the move with many new buildings and more being built. New roads are replacing old cobbled streets. The city centre is modern with large shopping centres, but just a few miles away the older parts of Joinville betray its 146 year history.

People

The main influence is European; German, Italian and Polish, in that order. With the industrial explosion over the last 20 years many coloured people from other parts of Brazil have settled here but



they are still a minority. There is colour prejudice amongst the Europeans and the town's mayor's office has a policy of sending coloured immigrants who have not coped back to their place of origin. People mostly work in industry. With the general prosperity leisure pursuits are many; the area has 40 of Brazil's most magnificent beaches which are by far the main leisure attraction.

Social

The city houses working class through to the very rich. There are no shanty towns and very few poor people. The city has a strong social conscience with orphanages as well as social centres for both the young and elderly. The private health service is excellent and the government health service is acceptable. The people have good general health, a nice clean city, little unemployment, leisure time and are therefore very privileged. Any racial discrimination is aimed at protecting this privilege.

Our Town

Our town

Joinville

Profiles

Artur

Artur (left) was the first person to become a Christian when the MacDougalls began the work at Costa E Silva, Joinville. Shortly after his conversion Artur's wife left him taking their three children with her. At the same time he became unemployed and had many problems. Yet he said, "How could I cope with all this if I did not have Jesus in my heart?"

Eli Soares

Eli (right) is an engineer who makes

buses. He has his own house, car and a small farm. Although a Christian, he had no church connection. His three sons attended church and began telling him what he was missing! Their enthusiasm brought Eli along and he soon became a very committed church member.

Oberdan Snr

Oberdan (far left) is a converted alcoholic, who in recent months has shown signs of spiritual development and

power. He teaches in the Sunday school and runs a boys' club for the church. He retired when he was 50 after working for 35 years in industry; this has enabled him to become more involved in church activities.

Voni

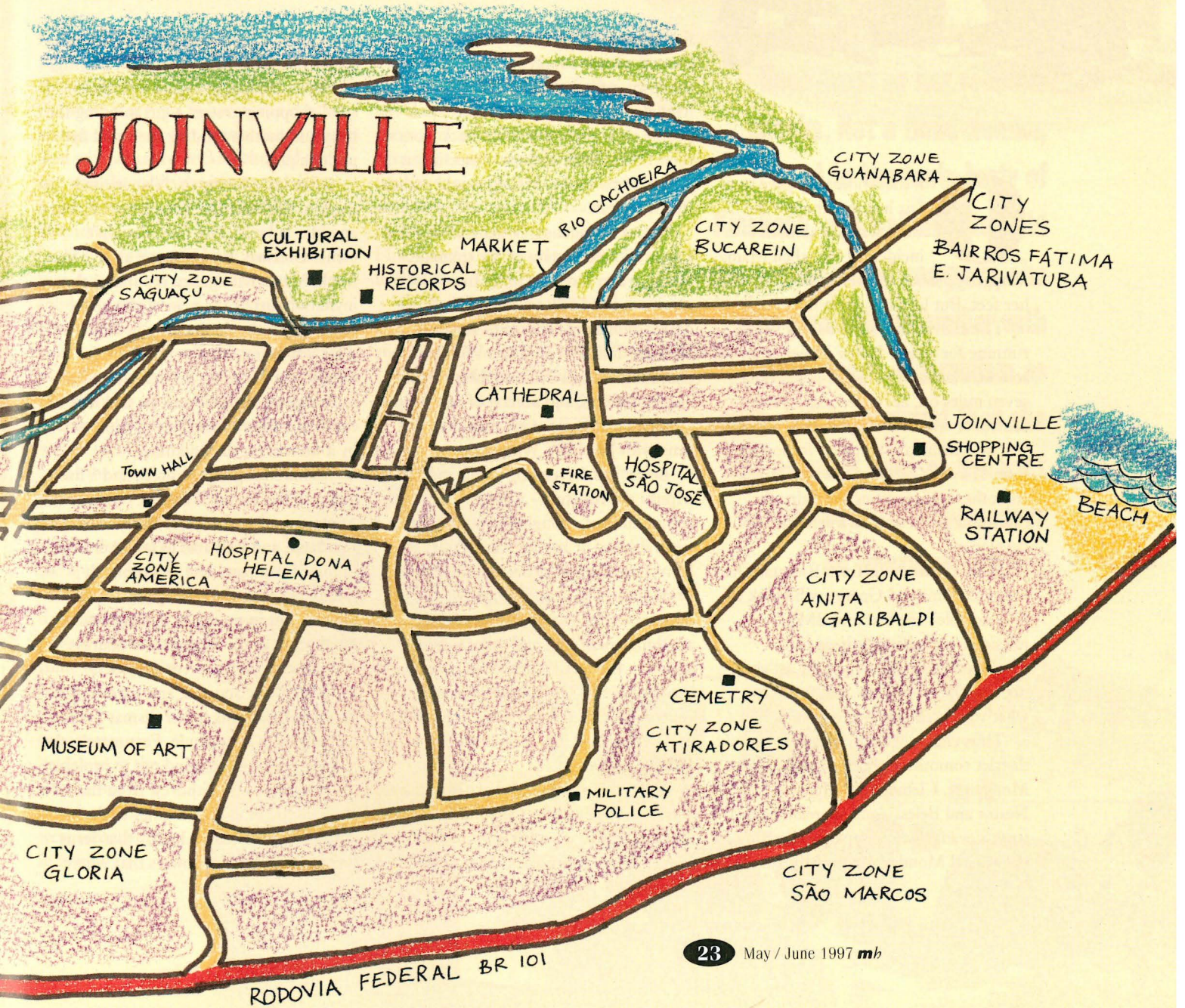
Voni has featured in Vince and Sadie MacDougall's prayer letters and he has finally accepted Christ. He was a heavy

drinker who often abused and threatened his wife and children. After nearly destroying his house whilst in a drunken rage he went to Vince in tears, pleading for help. Vince says "I immediately faced him with his sin and the gospel to which he gladly responded. He is making good progress and invited the girls from the Brazil 28:19 Action Team to his house for an ample barbeque."

Religion

Joinville is a beautiful and prosperous city with a strong tourist trade and visitors are impressed by the Catholic Cathedral and the German churches with their clock towers. However all this hides a great spiritual need within a prosperous but godless people. Materialism and the 'good time' have hardened many hearts, creating indifference to the preaching of the gospel. Evangelical Christians are a small minority. However the Baptist Church has awakened and planted five new church congregations during the last four years. They still have less than 500 members in three churches and the five church plants but are heading in the right direction. ●

URBANUS
CIDADE
DE
JOINVILLE


JOINVILLE
CITY ZONE GUANABARA
CITY ZONES BAIRROS FÁTIMA E. JARIVATUBA
RIO CACHOEIRA
CULTURAL EXHIBITION
HISTORICAL RECORDS
MARKET
CITY ZONE BUCAREIN
CITY ZONE SAGUAÇU
CATHEDRAL
JOINVILLE SHOPPING CENTRE
TOWN HALL
FIRE STATION
HOSPITAL SÃO JOSÉ
RAILWAY STATION
BEACH
CITY ZONE AMERICA
HOSPITAL DONA HELENA
CITY ZONE ANITA GARIBALDI
CEMETRY
CITY ZONE ATIRADORES
MUSEUM OF ART
MILITARY POLICE
CITY ZONE GLORIA
CITY ZONE SÃO MARCOS
RODOVIA FEDERAL BR 101

ZAIRE ZAIRE ZAIRE ZAIRE

HOW THEY TOOK THE GOOD NEWS FROM BWANTABA TO MBANKANA

BY **OWEN CLARK**

On the whole they gave us a fair hearing, though the week was not without incident. Like when Mama Monganga shook the very dust from off her feet. But let's not jump the gun.

The church at Bwantaba had been running for a year. Pastor Mbieme, an old soldier, was now in charge. Mbankana, seven miles on, beckoned as a strategic centre for work on the plateau - 100 miles east of Kinshasa, a stopover for lorries from Kikwit. Catholics, Kimbanguists and other communities were already there, but a new part of town was developing.

Mukoko and Nkie from Bwantaba had contacts, Sims and George, who took us to a 'notable'. He had met BMS missionaries in his youth, as had Mbankana's big chief Labi. "Cast your net into the water," he said, " and see what you catch. I'll give you land."

Thus encouraged, evangelist Mputu's district committee chose a team - Mama Monganga, Clementine, Alphonse, Nestor and Belesi - and we planned a week's evangelistic campaign. Arriving on the agreed Monday, Pastor Mbieme found places to sleep in Bwantaba. A council-of-war adopted a plan - quarter the town, split into four teams, including Mukoko, Nkie Sims and George, visit people each afternoon when back from their fields, invite them to a meeting at 4.30 at Sims' place. Mputu would preach, Belesi appeal.

Mama Monganga, Mukoko, Nkie and I were allotted certain of the unmade, sandy, grassy streets. Going from plot to plot we invited folk to the meeting, Mama Monganga and I in Lingala, Mukoko and Nkie in Teke. With his charming manner Nkie could have sold encyclopaedias, and several of our people showed up at Sims'. One team had lost time with Jehovah's Witnesses.

Belesi got the singing going and Mputu did his stuff - a good communicator, though untrained, with a natural sense of humour and ability to ham it up. Using pictures he showed how pride (peacock), anger (leopard), hypocrisy (tortoise), selfishness (frog), anything goes (pig), and other satanic spirits in the human heart can only be expelled by the Holy Spirit, through repentance and faith in Jesus. Though quite enthralled, no-one responded to Belesi's appeal.

Next day, without Mukoko, our team was down to three, but picking up where we had left off, we went from house to house. We came to a large plot where most of the family seemed to be outside, under the shady trees - children playing, teenagers talking, grandma on a little stool chopping greens, a girl minding the baby and mother tending the wood fire under a pot.

After introducing us, Nkie invited them to the meeting. They listened , but an older lad said, No, they wouldn't come. Unusual. People aren't always that frank. Mama Monganga rephrased the invitation just as the man of the house came out of the door asking brusquely what was going on. She told him. It didn't help. Drawing himself up to his full height, such as it was, he said that he could not allow himself to be addressed by a woman on such matters.

Mama Monganga winced, and a flush crept up her rounded cheeks. Not a timid woman, used to the hurly-burly of Kinshasa, and well able to hold her own in mixed company, she was probably unfamiliar with the concept of feminism as such, but in no doubt that she had as much right as the next man to address whomsoever on whatever subject.

"Huh!" she snorted, and gave vent in no uncertain terms to her dismay at meeting such an attitude. Fortunately she had the presence of mind not to prolong the exchange, but withdrew from the scene. Returning with dignity to the entrance, she declared loudly that Jesus had instructed his followers that where

ZAIRE ZAIRE ZAIRE ZAIRE

fair hearing

they were well received, they should leave their peace, but where not, they should shake the very dust from off their feet. Suiting her actions to her words she then stamped her feet vigorously, as one might deal with a nest of cockroaches. Making her way slowly up the street, she shared her regrets with any who might be listening.

Still dumbstruck, Nkie and I were torn between the rival demands of team solidarity and good public relations. Pausing only to repeat our invitation, we hastily took our leave and rejoined her. It took the afternoon for Mama Monganga to regain her cool, and our team was effectively down to two. Fortunately Nkie was all charm and fluency.

At the meeting Mputu put his heart into the message, and an older woman responded to the appeal. It was only on subsequent days that more people began to come forward. On the Sunday morning a service was held, and in the afternoon we met those who were interested in forming a CBFZ fellowship, about 20 in number.

Underlining that we were not out to steal sheep, but to challenge the uncommitted, we left them to talk. They chose Sims provisionally as leader, agreeing to meet on his plot. With further encouragement and suggestions as to how they might function, we promised to return in a month's time. Final prayers were said and we returned to Bwantaba.

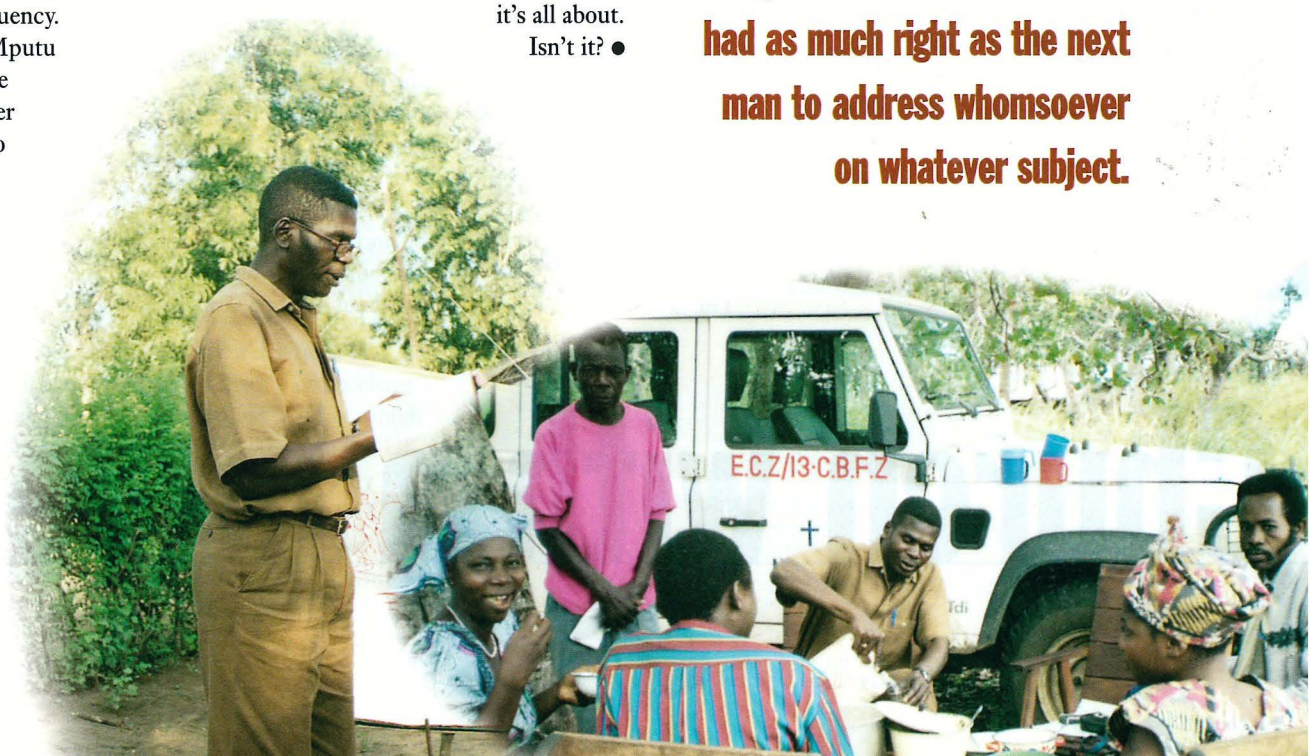
On the whole Mbankana had given us a fair hearing, in spite of the odd incident and Mama Monganga's discomfiture.

The Good News had been told, and a new fellowship begun.

After all, that's what it's all about.

Isn't it? ●

Mama Monganga winced, and a flush crept up her rounded cheeks. Not a timid woman, used to the hurly-burly of Kinshasa, and well able to hold her own in mixed company, she was probably unfamiliar with the concept of feminism as such, but in no doubt that she had as much right as the next man to address whomsoever on whatever subject.



Church with a large C

During my sabbatical last year, I visited Baptist churches in Italy and Albania, in order to learn about the principles and practice of evangelism. In this article I am going to concentrate on the Italian situation.

Sarah Mattock (BMS missionary in Ferrara, now in Sicily) found the market a useful place to talk with folk. Most stall-holders knew her and her three-year-old son by name, and called out "Ciao Simon!" One stall-holder was expecting twins at the same time as Sarah's daughter Judith was born (now one year old). They chatted regularly. Sadly one of her twins died at three months. The sadness gave opportunities to talk about God's love.

The general view of pastors is that a lot of Italians are unresponsive to the gospel. They are very materialistic, and see no need for the gospel. The Roman Catholic Bishops commissioned a survey in 1994 which found that only ten per cent of the population believed in God. I heard that a journalist had written in a daily newspaper "Dio" (God) with a small "d" and "Chiesa" (church) with a large "C". However 25 per cent of the population will attend church at least once during the year and many more will use the Church for rites of passage. The pastors want to encourage evangelism, but some are not sure how to do it.

The church at Rovigo in the north have plans to replace their buildings, which only seat about 40 at present, with a sanctuary seating 250. It is a church wanting to grow. I met the founder of the church, a former Jesuit priest called Guiseppe now aged 81 and in frail health, but a man whose vision to see the gospel of Jesus reach the people of Rovigo has been caught in the hearts of the members.

The churches at Ferrara and Rovigo have their own radio station with a potential audience of 500,000. The station is fully automated and controlled by a computer. Both churches have about 30 members.

In the south of Italy, I visited Gioia Della Colle Baptist Church for the final evangelistic meeting of their mission with the Motola church. There was a buffet meal at the end of the meeting and one (British) man at the church now believes in God

INSETS
The church at Rovigo; the computer-controlled radio station

THERE IS MUCH TO PRAISE GOD FOR AND TO PRAY FOR IN THE ITALIAN CHURCHES' SAYS **ANDREW PHILLIPS**

with a large C

because of the testimony and life of the church members. He said that he and his wife have had more invitations to people's homes than they could accept. The churches are enthusiastic about evangelism. Three had been converted during the mission and a number rededicated their lives to Christ.

Cersosimo is a village of about 1,200 perched high above a valley in the south of Italy. The church is pastored by Mary-Lu Moore who is Betsy Guarna's sister (Betsy is a BMS worker in Albania). The roads in many parts of the village are too small for cars. With the pastor, I walked around the village talking to folk. There is some ill-feeling between the Pentecostals and the Baptists because three men left the Pentecostals and joined the Baptists. Out of a membership of 15, that leaves a large gap. We were invited in by one Pentecostal family and had coffee with them, so there is hope of reconciliation.

Last year they bought a video and TV for their video library. They have all the Christian videos which have been produced in Italian. They also have an extensive book library for all-age study. This year they plan to buy a PA system for use in the open air and next year a video projector and screen, again which can be used outdoors.

Mary-Lu is also pastor of the church in Policoro. It stands at the very centre of Italy's 'heel' and has a population of 18,000. It has 11 members and a very attractive building, which they have converted themselves from a barn. They own a large field, which is going to be used for sporting activities. The church is planning to hold a holiday Bible Club this summer. They urgently need running water and toilet facilities supplied to the church. So any plumbers that feel like a "working holiday", would be made very welcome!

Everywhere in Italy I was made very welcome. The churches there face problems and challenges some of which are similar to those in the UK and some specific to Italy. There is much to praise God for and much to pray for in the Italian Baptist churches. ●

Give thanks:

- That evangelism is a high priority in many Italian churches
- For the pastors who long to see people converted to Christ
- For the outworking of their faith in social action

Please pray:

- That pastors will have confidence in the Gospel.
- That the churches will be encouraged in their evangelism.
- That the problems of Catholicism and materialism, would not cause churches to be disheartened.

Andrew Phillips is minister of John Clifford Baptist Church, Beeston, Nottingham, and is a member of BMS General Committee.

The Mattock family: Sarah found the market a useful place to share her faith

TAKE 2

Take Two – a resource for church leaders and workers

resources for leaders

How much do you know about China?

1 Which food are you unlikely to get at a Chinese banquet?
a) Beef b) Bamboo shoots c) Rice

2 In 1949 average life expectancy in China was 39 years. What is it today?
a) 49 years b) 59 years c) 69 years

3 By the year 2000 what percentage of the Chinese population will have colour TVs?
a) 40% b) 60% c) 80%

4 Which is the most populous animal in China?
a) Pig b) Cow c) Sheep

5 How many miles of motorway are there in China?
a) 0 b) 200 c) 1000

6 For every 100 women in China, how many men are there?
a) 105 b) 114 c) 123

7 In China the average wages of a garment cutter are 215 yuan a month. What is the average wage of a doctor per month?
a) 216 yuan b) 430 yuan c) 1000 yuan

8 How many ethnic groups are there in China?
a) 14 b) 28 c) 56

9 Which colour would you see predominating at a Chinese wedding?
a) purple b) red c) gold

10 Which of the following are Chinese inventions?
a) paper b) compass c) gunpowder

Prayer requests for Hong Kong

1 Pray that Christians worldwide will stand with the people of Hong Kong during this time.

2 Pray that Christians in Hong Kong will continue to grow in number and in spirit.

3 Pray for the unity of the church in Hong Kong, that their witness may reveal the power and beauty of the kingdom of God.

4 Pray that the people of Hong Kong will continue to develop a sense of belonging to Hong Kong and that they will mutually support one another in building up community spirit and identity.

5 Pray for the continuation of the process of democratisation in Hong Kong after 1997.

6 Pray that Hong Kong will continue to enjoy the freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and in the Basic Law, including freedom of speech, of the press, of association and assembly and of conscience and religion.

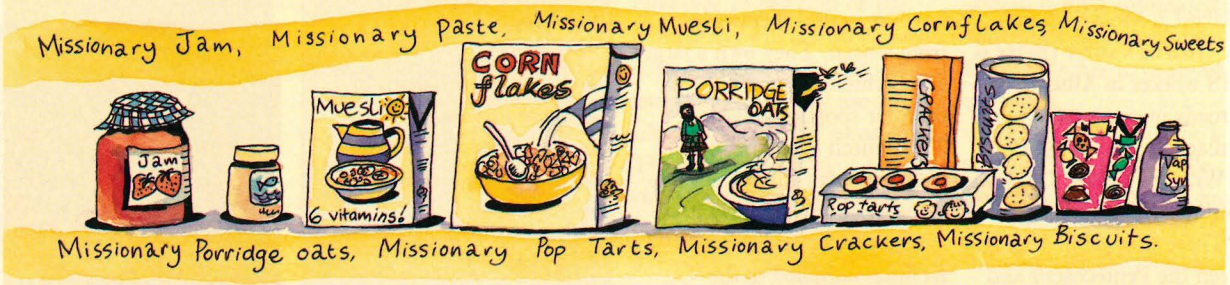
7 Pray that the rule of law and an independent, impartial judicial system will be maintained.

8 Pray for the rapidly growing number of unemployed and underemployed workers (150,000 in early 1996) due to the restructuring of economic ties between Hong Kong and China.

9 Pray for social justice for the most needy in Hong Kong, including new migrants from China, exploited workers, and women and children suffering from marital infidelity, domestic violence and child abuse.

10 Pray for opportunities for co-operation and unity between Hong Kong churches and churches in mainland China.

(Supplied by Hong Kong Christian Council and adapted)



Since becoming a missionary I've been treated to Missionary Jam Missionary Paste Missionary Muesli Missionary Cornflakes Missionary Porridge Oats Missionary Pop Tarts Missionary Crackers Missionary Biscuits Missionary Sweets, and I mustn't forget Missionary Vapo-Syrup!

What did all these have in common? They were all past their sell by date.

Don't get me wrong. We appreciated them - well most of them (by that I mean the Quaker Oats that earlier claimants had occupied and flew, or wriggled out of when the packets were opened).

Sometimes there was something else wrong. Take the Muesli that contained only half the advertised contents. The banned Pop Tarts that burned people's mouths when toasted.

The over-cooked biscuits that had to be dunked in tea to make them soft enough to eat.

Then I remembered my parents years ago saying, when I wouldn't eat all my food, "Don't waste good food! Remember the missionaries" and my reply, "Can I post it to them?"

Maybe Someone up there heard and decided to send it now.

Honest, God, I was only joking!

(Written after reading the Mission Supporter's Charter point 2)

Name and address supplied.

Did you know that...?

1 The Great Wall is the only human structure visible from the moon.

2 On the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau the air is very rarefied and visitors have to carry oxygen supplies. It takes a long time to boil things under these conditions and local people resort to pressure cookers to cook their rice.

3 China has over 30,000 species of flowering plants, many of them found nowhere else.

4 Each of the world's 150 or so minerals have been found in China.

5 The shopping streets of Shanghai are so crowded that barriers are placed along pavements to stop pedestrians blocking the traffic.

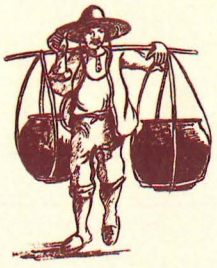
6 The Chinese do not have a word for privacy - it is impossible when three generations, sometimes four are living under the same roof.

7 The world's first iron chain suspension bridge was made across the Yangzi in Yunnan in 580 AD.

8 The Imperial Palace in Beijing has 9999.5 rooms as it was taken for granted that only God has 10,000 rooms.

9 Since the 1950s over 300 oil and gas fields have been discovered in mainland China, and more than 1400 oil wells have been drilled.

10 Cable TV is now available in Shanghai and Beijing.



Resources

To find out more about the Chinese Church please contact Open Doors about the film 'Bamboo in Winter'. Open Doors PO Box 6 Witney Oxon OX8 7SP. Tel. 01865 300262.
There is also 'A Future and a Hope' resource pack published by the China Forum of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. Available from CCBI, Inter-Church House, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL. Tel 0171 620 4444.

prayer

God of many names
Shangdi
Tianzhu
God of all peoples
God of China

No great wall
can keep you out,
no great dam
stop your great love flowing.

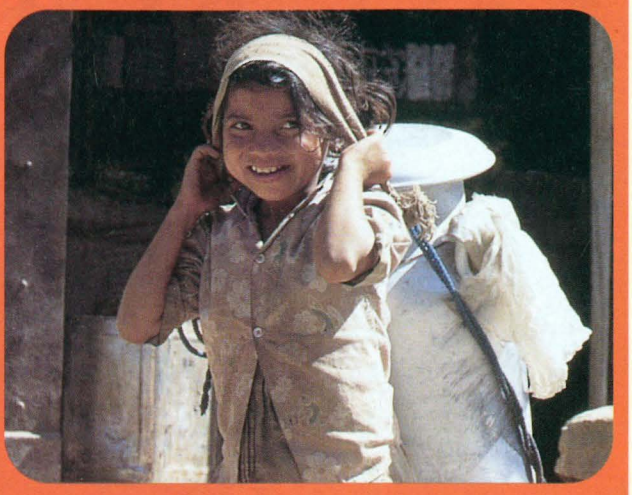
From mountains to sea
in paddy field and city
you walk with your people,
you see
smile
suffer
weep.

In you
strangers become friends
and so
we weep for China's pain
sing of China's faith
pray for China's people
hope for China's future

Lord God of all peoples
Tianzhu
Shangdi.

(Quoted in 'A Future and a Hope' resource pack)

ACTION CARD



Women in Nepal

It's early morning and the girl in the picture is carrying buffalo milk to the dairy. It's common for girls as young as four to work like this carrying huge loads. Then they will do laborious jobs all day: working in the fields or looking after younger children. A very few fortunate ones will go to school after their early morning duties, but female literacy in some parts of Nepal is as low as one per cent.

Usually girls stay with their families until placed into an arranged marriage, around the age of fifteen. Once married, the girl becomes the property of her mother-in-law; and her status will be little more than that of a servant. She might never see her own family again. Life expectancy in Nepal is 52 years. In fact, women in their twenties will look old under the weight of exhausting work and childbearing. It need not be like that.

ONCE MARRIED, THE GIRL BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF HER MOTHER-IN-LAW, AND HER STATUS WILL BE LITTLE MORE THAN THAT OF A SERVANT.

Corinna Woods is a missionary working with the Baptist Missionary Society United Mission to Nepal, in Dullu, a town in a remote part of Nepal, a day's walk from the nearest road. She is seconded to the staff of a newly created sixth form, sharing in the preparation of teenagers - boys and girls - in becoming primary school teachers. Efforts like these encourage girls, especially, to go to school. If they can become teachers, as married women they will still have all the household chores to do before work, but they will have a greater standing in the community. They will also provide role models, encouraging other families to send their children to school.

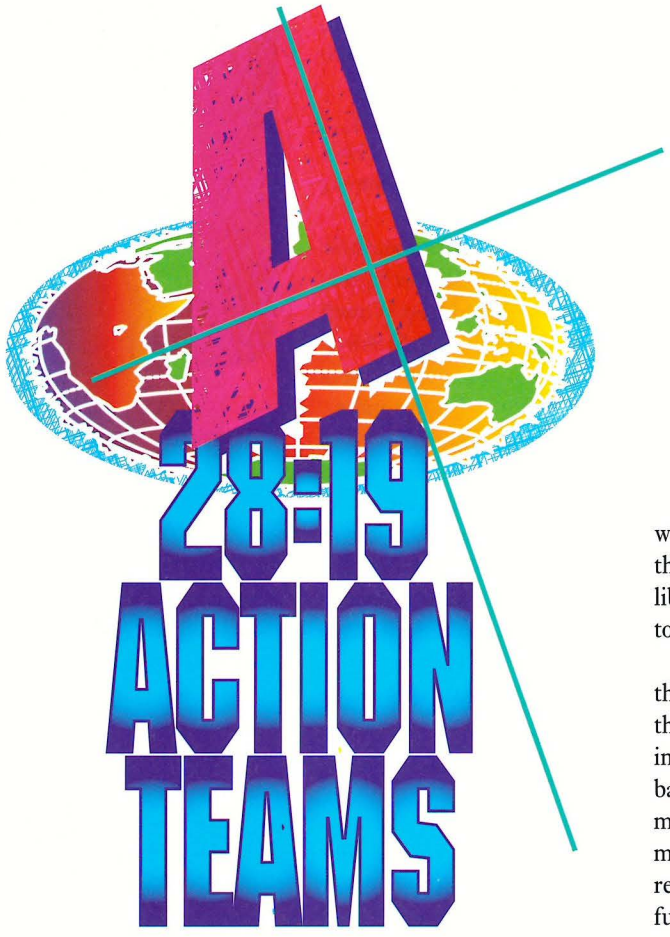
Send this month's card to: Mrs Corinna Woods (Dullu), c/o United Mission to Nepal, PO Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal, encouraging her in what she is doing in a very isolated situation.

ANSWERS

1 c) Rice. You don't give them rice because it shows you can afford to feed your guests without having to include cheap food.
2 c) 69 years, mainly because of improved food production and food distribution systems
3 b) 60%
4 a) Pig. There are 349.2 million pigs kept there as opposed to 110.6 million sheep and 74.8 million cattle. Mutton is mainly eaten in Muslim dominated areas.
5 a) 0
6 b) 114, because of the one child policy that came into force in 1979
7 a)
8 c) 93% of the people are Han Chinese, and the remaining 92 million belong to one of 55 minority nationalities
9 b) red - this has always been a colour of celebration
10 all of them!

TAKE 2

Part of the Action



For most, there have been difficult issues to face. The Thailand team have come face to face with suffering, befriending girls dying of Aids, the Brazil team have faced poverty in the favelas of São Paulo and the Malta team have faced apathy amongst many Maltese Christians. All team members, whatever their assignment and country destination, have been involved in work they had never done before, not all of which they enjoyed. All have experienced moments of asking, 'Why am I here, am I doing any good?' All can now look back and see how God has used them in every situation.

"We are realising that God uses us as we are, where we are. We thought we were not being used in the first three months but it is now obvious God has been working through us. We felt we needed to help strengthen the youth of Malta in their faith, as it is them who are left behind, to reach the unreached." (Malta Team)

It has been a challenging time for Leigh, Ellen, Jennie and Sarah in Thailand who spent the last three months of their overseas assignment in Bangplee, a satellite town of Bangkok and a town of heat, stench, nightmarish traffic, open drains and sewers with brothels on every street corner. Whilst in this town, the team taught English to community groups, kindergarten teachers and in schools. In all cases the team were able to share their faith through teaching and in the more advanced community groups, discussed and challenged attitudes towards women, prostitution, drugs and HIV/Aids.

"The atmosphere around Bangplee certainly felt very oppressive and all of us found it wearing and extremely difficult at times. However, God really provided us with the strength to go on and face new and challenging situations." (Thailand Team)

Some of the difficult times have been when teams were involved in more basic tasks, feeling these tasks were not the best use of their time and skills but part of mission work none the less. Two members of the Nepal team counted every one of the 771 colour coded ID tags they put onto books in a school library – but they felt the sense of pride when they had completed their task and transformed the library into something of use to the staff and pupils.

Ask the UK Team about the thousands of picture cards they joined BMS home staff in stuffing into tiny plastic bags for the WOW children's magazines however, and they might need a little longer to recognise their contribution fully!

It hasn't all been hard work however, the teams are given some time off to rest and relax although on holiday, the Zimbabwe team decided to risk life and limb white water rafting in the Zambezi river and the Jamaica team spent a day jumping off a 75ft cliff into a lagoon! The all girl Brazil team were a little more restrained, frequenting beaches and churrascos (BBQs with half a cow instead of burgers).

The teams will spend the next two months touring churches, leading meetings and sharing their experiences though a variety of multi media presentations. Contact your BMS Co–ordinator for details of your nearest venue.●

THE 28:19 ACTION TEAMS HAVE NOW COMPLETED THEIR ASSIGNMENTS AND HAVE EMBARKED ON THEIR TOURS OF THE UK TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES. **SAM GIBSON** REPORTS

This could be you

"We are realising that God uses us as we are, where we are. We thought we were not being used in the first three months but it is now obvious God has been working through us. We felt we needed to help strengthen the youth of Malta in their faith, as it is them who are left behind, to reach the unreached." (Malta Team)

Prayer *focus*

News from BMS colleagues and partners around the world to complement the BMS Prayer Guide

Albania

All BMS personnel waiting to be evacuated from Albania were confirmed as being on the Foreign Office list, and were able to board an Italian naval vessel at the port of Durres. They sailed to Brindisi and from there were brought to the UK. Previously BMS worker Elisabeth Towlson and her four children had managed to flee the country using a commercial flight from Tirana via Vienna. This was while the airport was still open.

Please pray:

- **for all BMS personnel whose work has been tragically cut short:**
- **Betsy and Saverio Guarna (church planting)**
- **Gill and Glyn Jones (agricultural work and administration at Baptist HQ)**
- **Ruth Kelso (teaching)**
- **Nicola and Roger Pearce and infant son James (development project work)**
- **Ryder and Heather Rogers (church planting)**
- **Prema Tennekoon (nurse educator)**
- **John and Lynne Thompson (teaching)**
- **Elisabeth and Paul Towlson and children Jessica, Michael, Evelyn, and Philip**
- **David and Yvonne Wheeler (engineering and medical work)**
- **for the people they've left behind, especially those who have found freedom in Christ in the last few years, but are still young in their faith, and need nurture and support; for all contacts and friendships made by Christians, that such relationships may not be forgotten in the midst of the fighting, and those, of whatever background, who are not able to leave.**

EUROPE

Joyce and Stuart Filby
BELGIUM

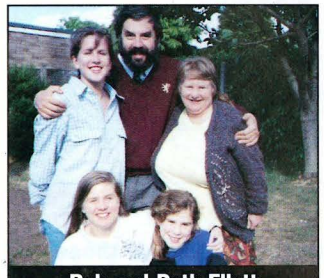
The new church operating from their house has begun life. In faith Joyce and Stuart had picked up chairs 'off the streets' four years previously and claimed that the Lord would put bottoms and seats together. He did! Twenty six people turned up for the first Sunday, and more people have come every week since! They have had baby Genesis dedicated, and have started a Sunday school in daughter Grace's bedroom.

Please pray:

- giving thanks that at last in this small area the walls of resistance to the gospel are beginning to move
- for each individual who has come to these services that they might find new life in Christ
- for Joyce and Stuart's neighbours. So far they have not complained about the noise or extra cars. Pray that this may continue, and that their curiosity might lead them to come themselves

- for Marc whom Joyce and Stuart led to the Lord a week after being invited to take part in his wedding
- for the overcoming of practical problems such as lack of plates for the after service lunch and toilet facilities

ASIA



Bob and Ruth Ellett
NEPAL

Early in the year Bob fell down a monsoon drain in Butwal. He was pulled out by Nepali colleagues, taken home in a cycle rickshaw, X-rayed in the clinic and the next day taken by helicopter to Kathmandu. He sustained an impact fracture of the hip joint. In Kathmandu Hospital Bob had three steel pins put into his left hip. He is now convalescing and can get around on crutches.

Please pray:

- thanking God for Bob's recovery and the healing of his hip. The doctors have been surprised at his lack of pain and speedy recovery.
- for Ruth as Bob's incapacity no doubt means extra work for her
- for their children: Ruth in Loughborough; Sarah between courses and looking for short-term employment; and Susanna at school.
- thanking God that the churches in Butwal have begun to meet together. Pray that this won't be a one-off occurrence but will be a continuing process.

Margaret Gibbs
NEPAL

Margaret returned to Surkhet in March after a six month home assignment. Just before she left the internal wall in the school was knocked down to create a bigger classroom, and the church front wall was knocked down and the church extended by ten feet. The church leaders have started literacy classes every night for those in the congregation who cannot read or write.

The building of a new TB and leprosy hospital in Surkhet has begun but the project itself is desperately short of missionary staff, doctors, nurses and administrators.

Please pray:

- for Margaret as she adapts back into Nepali life
- for the literacy classes, as the people concerned all require staying power as progress is only slow
- for more staff for the TB and Leprosy Project

Glyn and Frankie Phillips
NEPAL

One of Frankie and Glyn's contacts is Dolma, a Tibetan lady, who has a burden for her Tibetan people. She took Frankie and Glyn to a Tibetan refugee camp in Pokhara. Amongst other things they saw about 280 young boys, training to be monks. Those in the camp who wish to follow Jesus have to live a double life, as to stay in the camp they have to be obedient to the priests. They are very frightened people. If they openly declare their faith they will have to leave the camp, and that means: no home, no work, no food.

Please pray:

- for Dolma, as she befriends her people, and witnesses to them and cares for them. Pray for the ten orphans in her care. Pray that she will continue to have good health, and that the loneliness she feels as she has left her friends and husband behind in Butwal will disappear.
- for the Christians in these refugee camps (there are four in Pokhara), that they may have the courage and faith to make the necessary sacrifices

Charities Act 1993
Public Notice for the transfer of property under section 74 (2) (a)
Charity Comission number 250447

DECLARATION

The Trustees of the Elizabeth Seward's Charities HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that they have passed a resolution under the above provisions for the following purposes:

Authorising the transfer of the property of 18 constituent charities into the 19th charity, being the Elizabeth Seward Charity for ministers in the provinces.

Any interested person wishing to make representation regarding this said resolution may do so quoting the registered reference at the head of this notice by writing to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL signed by and on behalf of the Trustees, Geoffrey N Hagen, Clerk to the above Trust, 1 November 1996.

Note the above Trust does not exceed £1500 per annum.

Around the world

Prayer focus

EUROPE

Church
INDONESIA

Towards the end of 1996 and since then there have been a number of attacks upon Christian places of worship. For example 26 December 1996 in Tasikmalaya, West Java a riot broke out in which churches and cars filled with people were burned.In other areas violence and persecution of Christians has increased markedly. One attack on a number of churches in East Java resulted in a pastor and his family being killed. In other places churches have been destroyed.

Please pray:

- for believers in Indonesia. Pray especially for their protection
- that God will lead government officials to take wise measures to prevent such attacks in the future
- that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of the attackers to make them ashamed of these attacks, and that greater numbers of Sundanese will be open to the gospel
- that the church in Indonesia will react as the church did in Acts 4: 24-31 and that many witnesses will be raised up to proclaim the gospel even more boldly

AFRICA

Karen and Simon Collins
ANGOLA

Karen and Simon have now left Portugal and are preparing to go to Angola. Karen will be spending some of the time doing a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) course. Otherwise they will be packing, and saying their farewells.

Please pray:

- for Simon and Karen during this period, that everything may go smoothly. Pray that their Angolan visas will come through on time and without difficulty.
- that once they arrive in Angola they may be led to make friendships with the right people.(So far they know of three of their colleagues.)

Correction

March/April 1997 - "Equipping Others" - page 8, column three should read...
The centre wants every village and locality in Zaire - an estimated 80,000 villages - to be churched and for this each church has to have a leader.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER SUPPORT

BMS colleagues around the world often testify to the power of prayer in their work. They appreciate the support of those who pray regularly. If you would like to pray specifically and personally for personnel, please ask about the BMS Prayer Letter service. Telephone Diane Hayward on 01235 512077.

Checkout

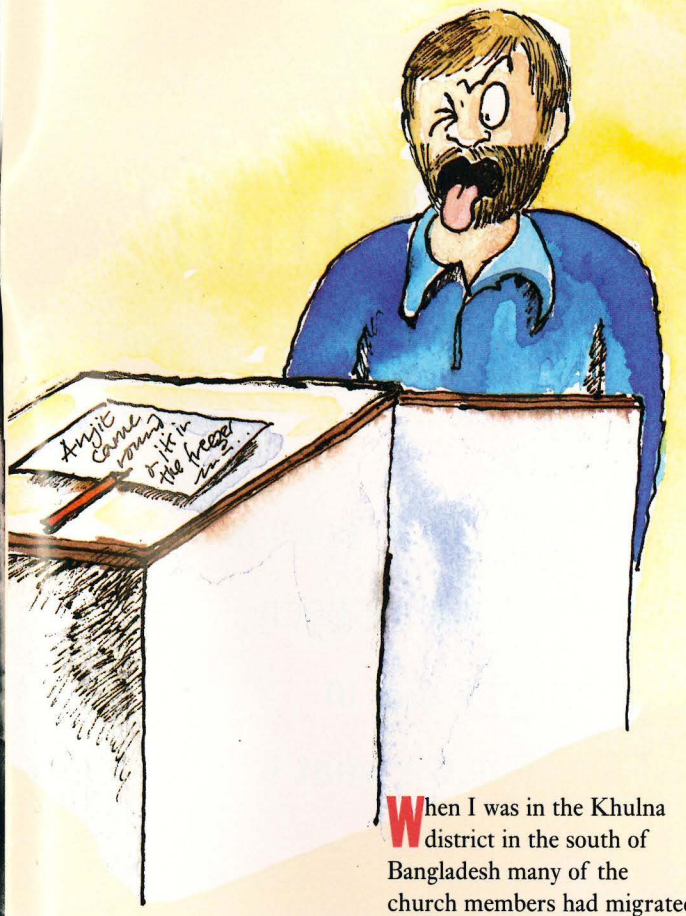
Arrivals
George and Betsy Lee from Sri Lanka
Tim Lehane and Alison MacLean from Nepal
Stuart and Georgie Christine from Brazil
Vince and Sadie MacDougall from Brazil
David and Cath Meikle from Brazil
Peter and Susan Cousins from Brazil
Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite from Brazil
Tim and Rosimar Deller from Brazil
Phillip and Vivienne Hatton from Zaire
Saverio and Betsy Guarna from Albania
Glyn and Gill Jones from Albania
Ruth Kelso from Albania
Roger and Nicola Pearce from Albania
Ryder and Heather Rogers from Albania
John and Lynne Thompson from Albania
David and Yvonne Wheeler from Albania
Prema Tennekoon from Albania
Paul and Elisabeth Towlson from Albania
David MacFarlane from Italy

Departures
Simon and Karen Collins to Angola
Stephen and Elizabeth Allford to Zaire
David MacFarlane to Italy
Mike and Jean Gardiner to Brazil

Overseas Visits
Alistair Brown to Canada
David Martin to Canada
Chris Hutt to Zaire
Derek Rumbol to Zaire

Travel Tales

Ajit gives the thumbs up



ILLUSRATION SARAH PRENTICE

JOHN PASSMORE

John Passmore is the BMS Europe Representative and was a missionary in Bangladesh for ten years.

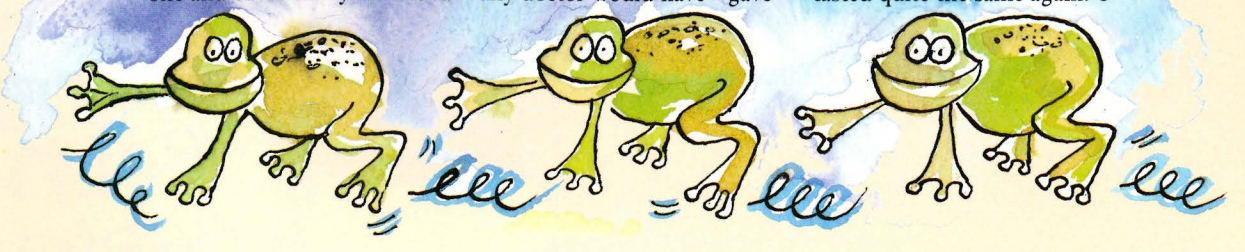
When I was in the Khulna district in the south of Bangladesh many of the church members had migrated to the city from the villages in search of work. Some had found employment in the variety of factories which lined the river banks. These also gave easy access to goods being brought in on small boats from the farms and provided the export route down river to the ships in the anchorage. There were jute mills, a power station and several newer freezing plants with cold storage. These latter brought their own compensations as my church secretary worked in one and could always be relied on to provide the king prawns when we had a special occasion. During the rainy season some branched out and added frogs legs to their list. Unlike the prawns, frogs were not farmed but just caught in their hundreds on wet warm nights. Many church members supplemented their income by catching frogs to sell to the freezing plants, but as you can imagine it was not always so easy to catch them and we saw many amusing chases with torches and sacks in hot pursuit of the leaping slippery prey!

One night there was a knock on the door and as I went to answer I saw my church secretary with another member and a man I did not recognise. My immediate thought was that it was Bible study night and I'd forgotten; then I thought that perhaps Ajit had come with a packet of something from his work, but no such luck. The other church member worked in a jute mill and the third man turned out to be a union shop steward.

The poor man had been working on a loom and had forgotten to remove his thumb from the path of the speeding shuttle. Ouch!! He unwrapped his bandaged hand and showed me the result. There followed a rather heated exchange and I was asked to resolve the problem, namely that the Trade Union said the thumb would have to be amputated and the Church said it would heal!! I did what any doctor would have - gave the man two asprins and told them all to come back in the morning! Then I made arrangements to see a new, reputedly reliable, doctor who had just arrived in Khulna. He explained to me that this was quite a common injury and the pressure for amputation was because the Union could then press for substantial compensation whereas a few weeks sick leave while the finger healed, would result in nothing more than a loss of earning and minimal sick pay from the Union. Amputate and everyone gets money with the shop steward taking his cut. No operation, and everyone loses money including the Union funds. The doctor assured us that the digit would heal, dressed it properly and prescribed some antibiotics. We all left happy, (well not quite, the shop steward was quietly seething.)

For some reason we had to leave Khulna for a week or so and arrived back late one evening. We were greeted by a note which simply said, 'Ajit came round and it's in the freezer.' Prawns, frogs legs - it had to be. I eagerly went to see but instead of succulent crustacean, there in a plastic bag was a small sausage-like object which looked suspiciously like a thumb. Not a pretty sight, especially by this stage, but sent as Exhibit One, proof that Church and Doctor were wrong and Union knew best.

Somehow the presents from the freezing plant never tasted quite the same again! ●



Joint Harvest Appeal 1997

● It's different this year ● It's improved this year ● It's more appealing this year

Get mh for July and find out for yourself!

The answer to long-term survival is not to pour in continuous aid. For many years you've been generously supporting the annual appeal to help people in developing countries to help themselves. This year we want to provide them with SKILLS TO SURVIVE.

To help you organise your Harvest fund-raising activities, we're preparing an eight-page colour pull-out in the next issue of ***mh***, coupled with a video and other audio-visual aids for hire.

Full details in ***mh***, July-August issue.

Telephone 01235 512077 ext 283 to subscribe

Operation AGRI BMM and Baptist Missionary Society Joint Harvest Appeal 1997

Registered Charities

July/August 1997

Baptist Theological Seminary Library Prague Czech Republic

Baptist Theological Seminary Library Prague Czech Republic

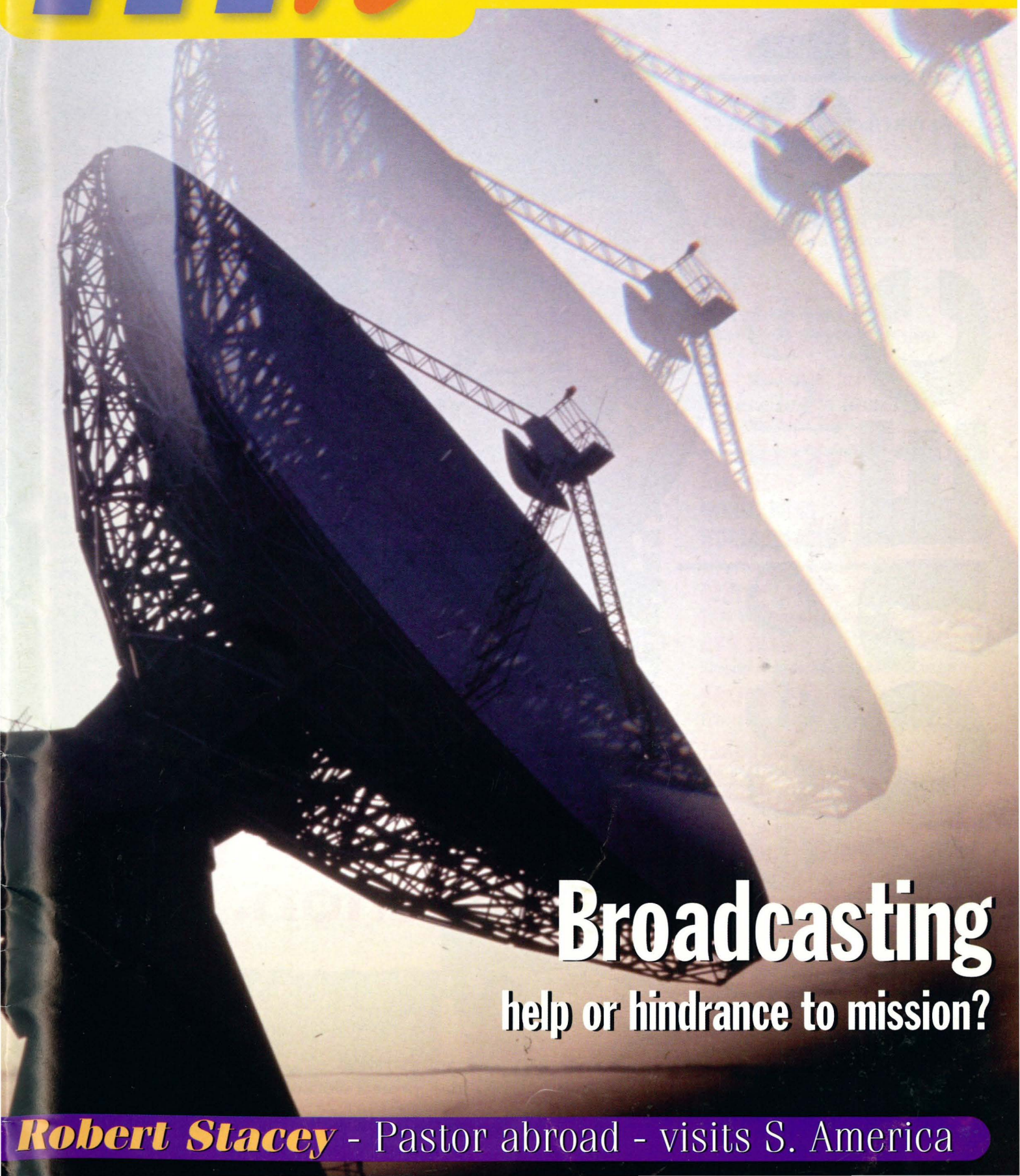
mb

News around the world

Focus on Kimpese

Action teams abroad

international



Broadcasting

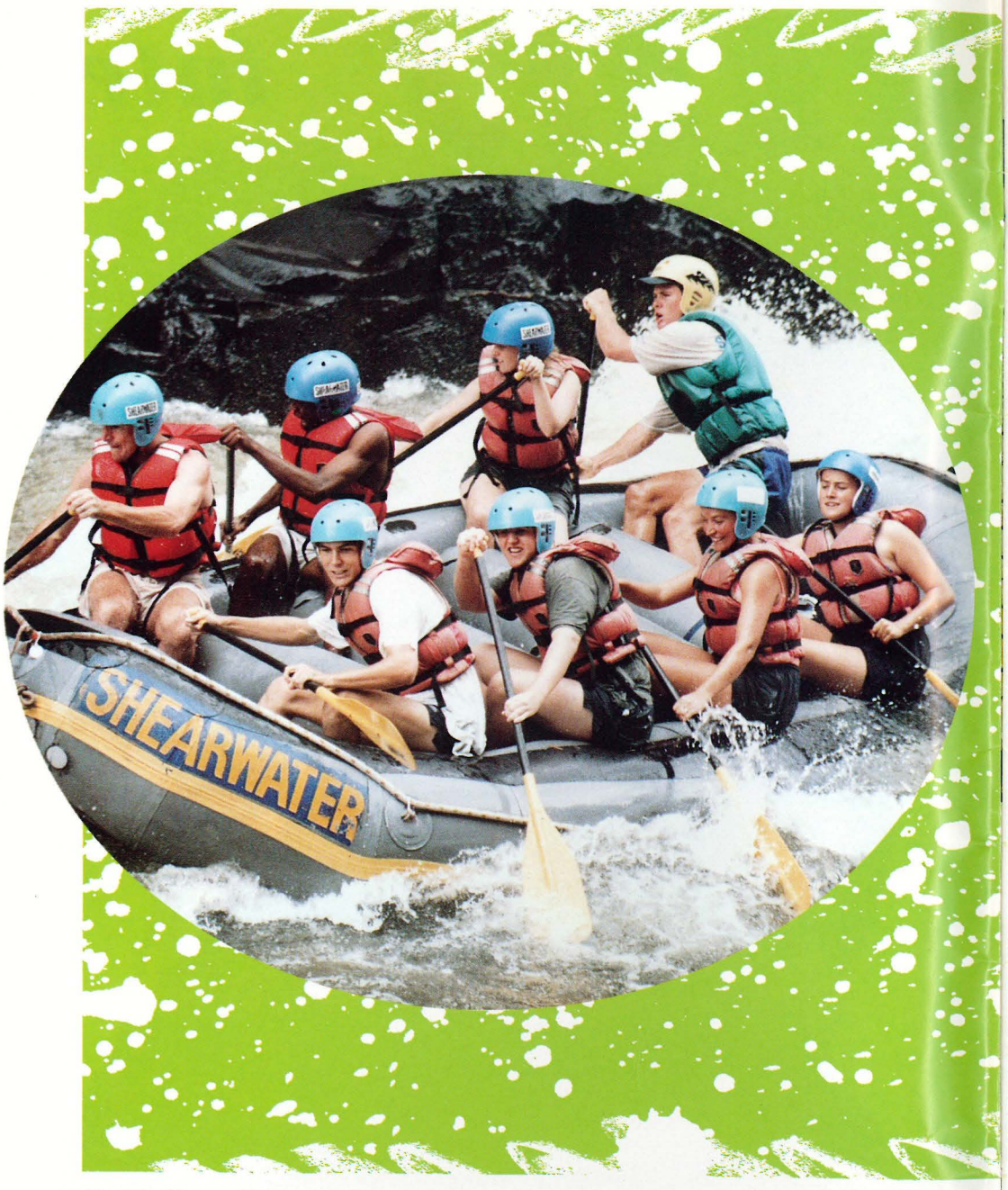
help or hindrance to mission?

Robert Stacey - Pastor abroad - visits S. America

PROJECT 97
a piece of the ACTION

Resourcing young people in active front line mission across the world, through BMS 28:19 Action Teams

PROJECT 97 raising money for BMS Action Teams



We're supporting a piece of the action.

ARE YOU?

Phone Rob Vaines on 01235 512077, or ask your local BMS co-ordinator for further details of the video, project workbook, poster and prayer cards.

Baptist Missionary Society PO Box 49 Didcot Oxon OX11 8XA
Registered charity no. 233782

JULY/AUGUST 1997

ISSUE - BROADCASTING

contents

JAN KENDALL

Children today in the West are growing up very technologically aware, with TVs carrying a multiplicity of stations, personal stereos, computers - at home and at school, - e-mail, and the Internet. It's a joke in some households that if you want to programme the video, you ask the kids to do it!

But TVs, PCs and everything else are essentially neutral. Like money, scientific knowledge or medical research, they can be used for good or bad.

It's no good burying our heads in the sand: all this electronic and IT gadgetry is here to stay, and what our offices, schools, shops, factories, homes and even churches will look like in this regard in say, ten years time, may be a surprise even for those who are in touch with the latest technology.

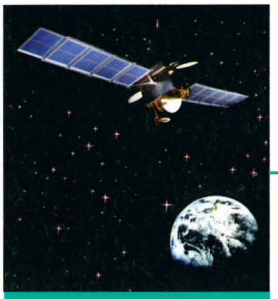
There is talk of the potential of using the latest means for spreading the gospel, but unless you're a computer whiz or radio ham, the scope for actually DOING anything seems a bit limited.

Christian life is gradually being affected by IT, from church magazines produced using desktop publishing software, to phone links during services to missionaries overseas, and wider afield to Christian TV programmes and Christian radio stations.

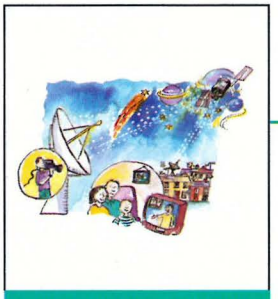
Paul's words in 2 Cor 10:5 to 'take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ' could be the motivation to create opportunities and build bridges in our communities, to put in place whatever things are right, pure, lovely and worthy of praise. We must aim to give people the option of filling their minds with good things!

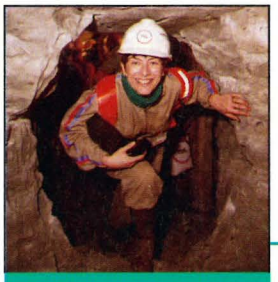
This issue of *mh* brings to you reports of Christians who are doing just that. We must do all we can to encourage them, and others like them, in their work for the Lord.

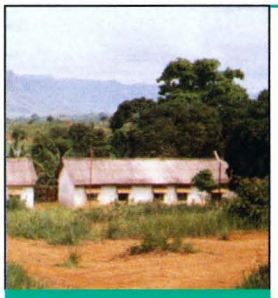
Jan



BT CORPORATE PICTURE LIBRARY: A BT PHOTOGRAPH







FEATURES

4 **SAT-7**
Broadcasting partnership
A dynamic new TV service

6 **GEMS ON TOAST**
Local radio and you
Jeff Bonser issues a challenge

8 **NEW TECHNOLOGY**
- present and future
John Wheatley and what it's all about

10 **CLOCKWORK RADIO**
Where big is beautiful
Old principles put to good use

NEWS

12 **BMS NEWS**
14 **WORLD NEWS**
17 **WORLD MISSION LINK**

REGULARS

18 **CENTRE SPREAD**
Terry and Barbara Page

20 **OUR TOWN**
Kimpese, Democratic Republic of Congo

26 **PASTORS ABROAD**
Robert Stacey visits South America

28 **TAKE TWO**
Mission file of facts, figures and background

30 **ACTION TEAMS**
They're out at the sharp end

32 **MISSIONARY DIGEST**
Prayer points to support BMS colleagues

35 **JOHN PASSMORE**
The last word

COVER IMAGE
GOONHILLY EARTHSTATION
PHOTO: BT CORPORATE PICTURE LIBRARY: A BT PHOTOGRAPH

NEXT ISSUE SEPT-OCT
Reverse flow mission
When the Spirit moves back to front!

CREDITS

General Director Alistair Brown

Managing Editor Richard Wells
Editor Jan Kendall

Regular Contributors Jenny Barrett, Alistair Brown, Owen Clark, Sam Gibson, Jan Kendall, John Passmore, Richard Wells

Design Editor Anthony Viney
Art Editor Sarah Prentice

Director for Missionaries Sian Williams (for enquiries about service)

Printed by Alden Colour Didcot, Oxfordshire

Subscription for 1997 *mh* and BMS Prayer Guide are published as a complete package. £6.00 through church ***mh*** distributors £7.98 by direct mail (inc p&p). Six issues of ***mh*** with three of BMS Prayer Guide plus free Annual Review. Overseas p&p at the rate applicable.

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the BMS

© Copyright 1997
Baptist Missionary Society

ISSN 0264-1372

Missionary Herald the magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society

Address: PO Box 49, 129 Broadway Didcot Oxon OX11 8XA
Telephone: 01235 512077
Fax: 01235 511265
Web Site: http://www.rpc.ox.ac.uk/bms/index.htm
E-Mail, Editorial: bms_media@cin.co.uk
E-Mail, Other departments: 100626.1577@compuserve.com
Registered charity number 233782

Samir is 43 years old. He was born in Morocco, but now lives in Hamburg. His most treasured possessions in his small apartment are his television, two video recorders,and satellite receiver. These stand in his living room area, housed in a bookcase. In the adjoining kitchen, by the only window, there is an 85cm brown satellite dish. This is connected to a large concrete brick on the floor by means of a metal rod. In front of the brick Samir has written the names of the various satellites the dish can receive on pieces of tape at the relevant positions: Astra on 19.2 degrees East, Eutelsat 7 degrees East, Eutelsat 10 degrees East, Eutelsat and Hot Bird 13 degrees East, and Eutelsat 16 degrees East. To enable Samir to tune in accurately, he must move the concrete brick to what he thinks is the required position, and hurry to his living room to check his television. If he wants to change satellites he must return to his kitchen and move his brick to the left or the right.

SAT-7

SAT-7 is a dynamic new television service, using satellites, and serving the Christian community primarily in the Middle East and North Africa. A Partnership of 28 organisations, including BMS, now help to promote this unique and exciting project.

SAT-7 began weekly transmissions on 31 May 1996, using the satellite Eutelsat 2F3. Broadcasts, at this point, were just two hours a week, in Arabic, on a Friday, from 12.30 to 14.30 Central European Time. The area covered by the transmission (the 'footprint') includes most of Europe, the tip of North Africa and parts of the Middle East.

At the end of April 1997 SAT-7 began broadcasting the same programmes at the same times on another satellite system, PanAmSat 4, whose 'footprint' covers North West Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia.

Viewers very often first find the SAT-7 service by browsing through the channels. For new viewers in the Gulf, who tune in to the PanAmSat4 satellite, it may take a while for them to locate the channel as most local media does not carry information about a Christian satellite station.

Programmes are both culturally sensitive and appropriate for the receiving countries, at the same time giving an attractive alternative to local broadcasts and western channels.

By the spring of 1998 SAT-7 hopes to broadcast for several more hours per week both in Arabic and other languages, and by 2000 it would like to be outputting programmes for 24 hours a week, in a variety of languages, using a digital channel.

It is estimated that 99.9 per cent of homes in some Arab countries now have television, and more than half of these have two or more sets. Although satellite dishes were banned in some countries some years ago, it is reckoned that more than 50 per cent of all homes in such countries have a dish or dishes.

Elsewhere more than 90 per cent of the population own televisions, including those living in the poorest of slums, who will have a black and white set, at least. A television set is a priority purchase for any family, and for most, it is their only source of information and entertainment.

An increasing number of people covered by the 'footprints' have access to Arab, European and Asian satellite TV services. For some living in Middle Eastern cities there is the choice of as many as 80 different channels. Whilst many are in Arabic, only SAT-7 carries any Christian programming. It is estimated that over 100 million people in the Middle East will have access to satellite TV by the year 2000.

And how has SAT-7 been received? The very first person to call the SAT-7 Cyprus office when broadcasting commenced simply said "Mish maoul", translated "This is unbelievable!" That has continued to be the response from much of the audience, who are delighted to find an Arabic-language Christian TV service available to them!

Many write or phone their appreciation of the programmes. For example a lady from a Protestant church in Syria telephoned SAT-7's Cyprus office, literally in tears, to say how much the weekly programmes meant to her and her church. Her pastor records the broadcasts, and then videotapes are copied around the church. She also said that local Orthodox and Armenian churches were doing the same.

The only negative responses have been from those who wish that SAT-7 broadcast for a longer period of time!

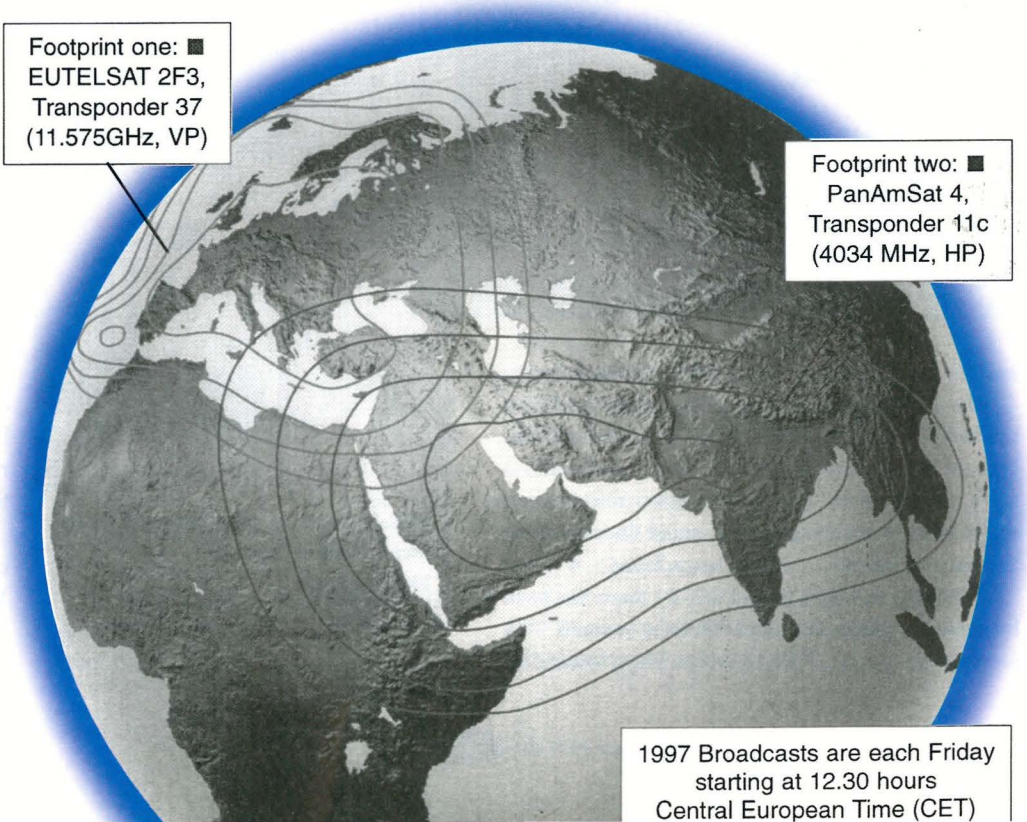
The ability to expand and extend broadcasting hours depends on the development of capacity by SAT-7 to produce programme continuity, and to strengthen its programming acquisitions department. As well as personnel and technical requirements, funding will also play a crucial part in how quickly it can move ahead, and see its vision become reality. ●

The Aims of the SAT-7 project

1 To sustain the scattered Christian communities and encourage them in their faith, service and witness.

2 To provide its audience with an opportunity to hear a presentation of the Christian message in its own language, without unnecessary foreign, cultural or political baggage.

3 To complement all public education and information channels with a balanced Christian world view which reflects Biblical perspectives on human life and society.



COPYRIGHT BRITISH LIBRARY, ARCHIVE PHOTOGRAPH

SAT-7 viewers speak out

"Thank you so much for the letter you sent - it was like a beautiful story for me - but I have not yet received the Bible I asked for, more than a month ago - I need it so much and I will give you my address once again..." Moroccan man viewer

"Me and my family and all the Christians here in Bethlehem want to thank you for your programmes. We are waiting for you to be on air 24 hours per day because you are the only channel that speaks about the truth, that Jesus is the only way to eternal life." Palestinian student

"I love your programmes but are they telling the truth? Is it true what they say, that Jesus is the Son of God? Or are these the words of deceivers? Please tell me more about Jesus!" Kuwaiti woman

"I watch your programmes with great interest every Friday. Thank you for your big efforts... I would like to co-operate with you in the spreading of your holy ideas." Algerian man viewer

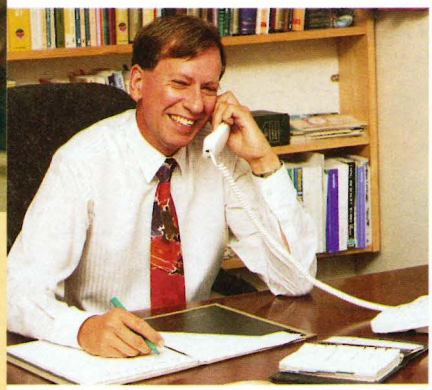
"Your channel has entered my heart... my whole family loves to watch your programmes, we can hardly wait for the broadcasts each week!" Moroccan woman

"As I write this fax, my heart is beating hard from the happiness and excitement that your channel has brought to me. This happiness feeds my soul and spirit. Give us more - you do not realise how happy we are to learn about the prophets, about God, about our Saviour and Master..." Egyptian living in Holland

"We were so happy to find SAT-7 - there has been a long need for such a channel. We hope you can increase the hours..." Lebanese refugee living in Denmark. ●

Gems on toast

Why **Jeff Bonser** gets excited about local radio



TOP:Colin Lowther and Yvonne Troy present 'The Full Breakfast' show on Classic Gold
ABOVE: Jeff Bonser

"Gems on toast" is the answer! What was the question? Listeners to West Yorkshire's Classic Gold radio station hear children's answers and have to guess the question, which was "What does the Queen have for breakfast?".

The show which features The Big Question is provided by the Christian broadcasting organisation HCJB-UK based in Bradford. It is a live two-hour breakfast programme which happens around a real breakfast table.

"Good morning, welcome to The Full Breakfast on Classic Gold" says presenter Colin Lowther. "The answers are God, my dad and Ted Rogers. What is the question?" There's no shortage of listeners who ring in with the answer, or rather the question, which was "Who is the cleverest person in the world?".

Colin, a member of a local Baptist church, co-presents the programme with Yvonne Troy. The popular quiz is featured alongside music, interviews and news. "We have sent every church in the

Did you say something?

Ian S Rose of Soundwaves Radio looks at Christian broadcasting

Soundwaves radio

I picked up the letter and re-read... 'We're after a short article describing your insights into Christian broadcasting abroad.' 'Well', I thought, 'where do we go from here?'

From the beginning

I suppose I could start by mentioning that the oldest Christian radio station HCJB started broadcasting on Christmas Day 1931 in a sheep shed - admittedly not a particularly auspicious start. I could go on to mention that the transmitting site in Pifo, Ecuador, has more than 30 antenna systems supported by 48 towers and on average 6,000 letters a month are received from 140 countries.

Or I could talk about Trans World Radio broadcasting from eleven sites around the world in 120 languages with a staff of over 1,000.

Then again there is FEBA Radio now into its 27th year, broadcasting in 52 languages to more than 30 countries and now using clockwork radios.

I could even wax lyrical about UCB Europe who broadcast by satellite and take in a circle covering Greenland, Eastern and Western Europe, North Africa and the whole of the British Isles.

ABOVE: Ian records another programme in the soundwaves studio

But...

Is this what Christian broadcasting is all about? Is it just nuts and bolts, transmitters, mega watts of power, antennae or what...?

What is truth?

Certainly it is all these things but surely it is much more. It is about being God's mouth piece in a world that is bombarded with a surfeit of messages. Why should we be listened to? It is not good enough to say 'because we speak the eternal truth' for the reply is likely to be that echoed down the centuries 'What is truth?'. We must earn a hearing.

Perhaps, the best way is not a total diet of bible preaching. Perhaps, just perhaps, when a person is existing at starvation level a programme on how to improve crop yields and farming techniques might just catch the ear of a non-committed listener more readily. Now I'm not knocking preaching. It has its place and ultimately a supreme place, but radio is about communicating to an individual, and this means we have to speak the language of that listener (in more ways than one). To the educated Hindu seeking a world perspective, a reliable unbiased news service might be the door into his life. To the young person with an interest in short-wave listening a programme about DX-ing might serve the same purpose.

Crossing the bridge

So once the listener feels comfortable with the station he will be more prepared to take seriously the Christian message contained within the programmes. Wasn't it St Paul who said he became different things to different people in order to win them for Christ, and didn't Jesus tell stories about sheep to shepherds and crops to farmers?

Not the easy route

I know I am not unique when I say that it is relatively easier to produce a 'preaching' type programme than a ear-catching interest one containing the essence of the Gospel. My experience is that it is frequently difficult to gain the support of Christians for this type of programming as they myopically fail to see it as Christian. But there again we never were promised that any work for Christ would be easy.

Now, what was it they said they wanted this article on...?

Soundwaves Radio is an outreach of the Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham, Sussex.

area two postage-paid reply cards to encourage them to send their news. These are read out in the show along with stories from the week's papers" said Yvonne.

There's also "The Toaster Challenge". Local people are invited to come on the show and say why they believe in God in one minute - before the toaster goes BOING!

What do the station bosses think? "It's not heavy and boring" said Programme Controller Geoff Hemming. "There's a good balance between Christian bits and the sound of Classic Gold, and it is one of the few religious shows I'll listen to."

Around half a million people listen to the station every week - many many more than in local churches on Sunday.

Classic Gold is one of over 200 local radio stations in the UK listened to by more than 30 million people. In fact more people tune in to their local stations than listen to BBC Radio 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Live put together!

In many of the stations Christians are involved in a whole variety of ways - from producing or presenting programmes to interviewing, researching or even making the tea. Several stations have a daily "Thought for the Day" and all of them broadcast news and information.

Make sure your church has someone who ensures your news is given to local radio stations in your area. Be alert to potential broadcasters in your congregation. If you need it, help is at hand. ●

Jeff Bonser is General Secretary of the Association of Christians in Local Broadcasting (CACLB)

New Broadcasting Technology Blessing or Bane?

JOHN WHEATLEY
OF THE FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY LOOKS AT PRESENT AND FUTURE BROADCASTING TECHNOLOGIES

What do you think the novelist Arthur C. Clarke and the apostle John have in common?

They each had a vision of the geostationary communications satellite, though their approaches were in stark contrast to each other!

Much has been said and written about the use of satellites for communicating the gospel, and certainly their potential is enormous. But first let us understand just what they can do. A communications satellite is a relay station in orbit, and although it can 'broadcast' television or radio programmes, its function is to relay whatever is beamed up from a ground station. Most modern satellites can carry up to 24 TV channels plus an even larger number of auxiliary audio channels (called sub-carriers) which can be used to broadcast radio programmes.

A 'geostationary' satellite is so-called because in its orbit, nearly 23,000 miles high, it turns at the same rate as the earth and therefore appears to be stationary in the sky.

In Europe at the moment, between about 100 TV channels and over 50 radio channels can be received from the popular satellites (to be increased by another 200 TV channels on the new BSB DIGITAL satellite in 1998!). The equipment required to receive these consists of a satellite receiver (or tuner) and a dish antenna of 60-80 cm in diameter. Many of the TV channels are in other European languages and many of the English TV channels are encrypted and require a subscription to be paid in order to view them. Of the radio channels, United Christian Broadcasters operate a 24-hour service, and Transworld Radio operate a Christian channel for part of the day. None of the radio channels are encrypted.

The media world is developing and changing with increasing speed. Our motive as Christians must be to reach people in the market-place, and as that market-place changes, it is vital that we keep fully aware of developments so that we can continue to reach people as they move their viewing or listening to the new areas opening up, and so that we can plan intelligently for the future.

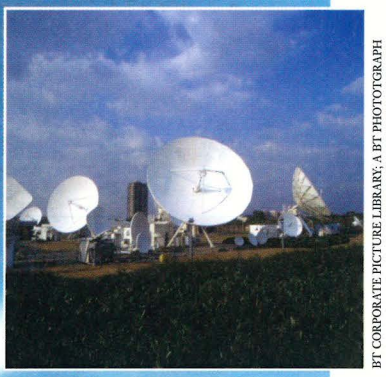
The changes will not happen overnight, and the speed of change will vary from one geographical area to another. For economic reasons they are taking place first in the more developed countries. More than 50 million households in Europe now have satellite TV, but in Asia and Africa only the more affluent levels of society could afford the new media. However, the ownership of TV is growing at a surprising rate in the poorer countries, and even satellite TV, possibly cable-connected, is making a growing impact.

ILLUSTRATION: SARAH PRENTICE

The Potential for Satellite Radio Ministry

Radio gets a 'piggy-back ride' on satellite TV! This means that all the paraphernalia for TV (particularly the dish) is required in order to receive the radio programmes.[1]

BT CORPORATE PICTURE LIBRARY; A BT PHOTOTGRAPH



BT CORPORATE PICTURE LIBRARY; A BT PHOTOTGRAPH

However, Digital Audio Broadcasting, or DAB, is already with us on local stations in the U.K. and elsewhere in Europe. DAB can also be satellite-delivered on an international basis, does not need a dish for reception, and offers CD-like quality!

This is the only practical replacement for international short-wave radio, but it will require a new type of radio (just as the CD required a new kind of record-player).

Therefore, receiver availability and sales in quantity (leading to low prices) will be the key to any large-scale audience to DAB. DAB car-radios for terrestrial stations and the consumer market are available now, at a price in excess of £500. The growth of DAB will be 'limited by economic rather than technical constraints'.

The Potential for Satellite TV Ministry

Ironically, the employment of the new technology for TV has overtaken radio, and it is already a practical possibility for ministry on a national, regional, or international basis. Satellite delivery has freed up TV from the rigid control governments have exercised until now.

But there are massive hurdles involved in using TV! The greatest one is the high cost and enormous skill resources inherent in the production of many hours of daily programmes appropriate to the culture of the viewers! Another is the on-going high cost of a TV channel.

Is it Morally Right to Use Such a Medium?

Because some satellite channels have been used for pornographic purposes, some Christians have questioned whether it is right to have anything to do with the use of satellite TV/radio.

I personally believe that such a question is in reality a cop-out! G.K.Chesterton wrote to parody Christians who find excuses to avoid commitment; "Let us have the pleasure of conquest without the pain of soldiers; let us sit on sofas and be a hardy race... let us have the splendour of offering ourselves without the peril of committing ourselves!"

We need to get on with it! ●

[1] Though it is possible to connect the satellite tuner to an ordinary hi-fi system, and thus listen to the satellite radio channel without switching on the TV set.

A Radio that goes like Clockwork

It has been described as an overstuffed lunch box, and weighing six pounds, it is certainly not something you would put in your pocket; but right now people in Africa are falling over themselves to own one.

It has been called "a brilliant idea." Nelson Mandela described it as "a fantastic achievement."

The clockwork radio consists of a clockwork mechanism that stores energy, activated by a winding handle, which delivers electrical power when required. This is no watch spring we are talking about, but a spring that unwound measures 30 feet long, originally designed for rewinding automatic seat belts. Every time the radio is wound up for 25 seconds, it can give 40 minutes of radio air time.

The clockwork radio is the brainchild of Trevor Baylis, a British scientist, who, came up with the idea after watching a television documentary about AIDS and the difficulties incurred in sending health information in developing countries, because of erratic electricity supplies and expensive batteries.

Baylis went straight to his workshop, sure he could put to good use the principle of the old wind up gramophones, and hey presto, the clockwork radio was born.

Unfortunately Baylis's idea was not marketable, and it took him two years to find a sponsor. Now the BayGen Freeplay Radio is produced in a small factory just north of Cape Town, South Africa, where 110 workers earning the equivalent of $80 a week put together a radio every 30 seconds.

Just before their election Ghana wanted 30,000; it was the best way of getting the message across to the voters. It has been a big turnaround from when the big electronics companies gave the clockwork radio a thumbs down, saying "That's all very nice, but who needs it?" to now, when countries like Japan are actually importing these radios.

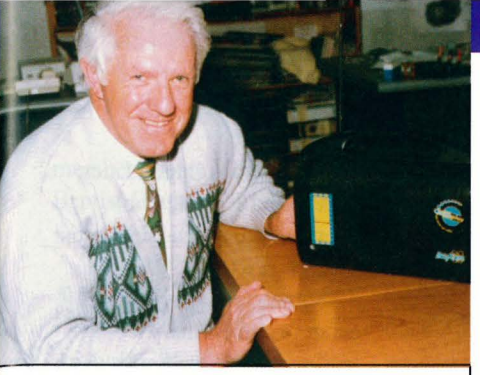
Its benefits are overwhelming; saving the owner somewhere between $500 to $1000 in battery costs over its three year life span. It is even better than having solar energy which can only be used in daylight hours. Able to receive SW, MW and FM, listeners can tune in to local and international programmes.

The radio need not have been built so big, but having it big was a great status symbol in Africa, just below owning a bike or a motorcycle!

FEBA Radio News recently reported on the potential of these radios within their reception areas; they were planning a trial in both Mozambique and the Sudan. The Baptists of Whitley Bay have sent hundreds of these radios to Ghana, with a target of 100,000 set to deliver to the people of central Ghana by the end of the century.

"It's such a simple idea" said one of the executives of BayGen Power, but the good ones always are.

Stan Crees is a member of General Committee and Liaison Officer of Operation Agri.



STAN CREES EXPLORES TECHNOLOGY TURNED BACK TO FRONT.

Mike Pilavachi

The Great Communicator

The actor/US President Ronald Reagan was called the great communicator because of the way he managed to win over the American public and be, according to the polls, the most popular American President since polling began. This, despite the fact that he was not the most intellectual or able man to have held the post be a long way.

I write soon after one of the longest British election campaigns in history when we have been bombarded with advertising both positive and negative, spin doctors have confused us and allegations of lies and "media manipulation" have been exchanged with monotonous regularity.

Faced with this, we look across the Atlantic and remember the excesses of some of the American tele-evangelists and conclude that we will keep away from all this evil. Surely if anyone deserves the title "Great Communicator" it is Jesus! We will do it Jesus way, preach the gospel in a straightforward and sincere manner without resorting to techniques.

But wouldn't we be throwing the baby out with the bath water? Did not the "word made flesh" use all the best methods of his time (parables, storytelling, etc), and break new ground in communicating the gospel to men and women?

Following his example, Paul went to where the people were to proclaim the good news in ways they could identify with and understand? He preached in synagogues, lecture halls and marketplaces. In Athens he was not afraid to go to the Areopagus (the "Newsnight" of his day) in order to argue his case.

Of course there are dangers in getting involved in the media. They are nothing like the dangers in keeping away and leaving a clear run to those who would oppose the gospel. We need to get our hands dirty but have clean hearts. We must "refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word" but take every opportunity for "the open statement of the truth".

When we do this in the media or anywhere else in society, Paul says "we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God" (2 Cor. 4:2), in other words, even in the media, integrity shows through.

Mike Pilavachi heads up the Soul Survivor team and pastors a congregation in Watford specially aimed at reaching young people

WHERE THERE IS NO TELEPHONE

BY JOHN CORBETT

Where there is no telephone is a handbook on short-wave radio communications for missions in developing countries, based on John Corbett's own experience in Zaire, Kenya and Tanzania. The book has had three reprints, and has also been sold to the United Nations.

Available from BMS, Didcot, at £8.50, or find out more on the world wide web library at: http://www.reliefwe.int/library/wtint/

New candidates accepted

At the BMS General Committee held earlier this year three new candidates were accepted by the BMS.

Paul & Angela Foster

Dr Paul Foster and his wife, Angela, from Lymm in Cheshire have been accepted for medical work in Nepal with the International Nepal Fellowship. Paul, a Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, has been trained in anaesthesia and intensive care medicine. Angela was a nurse in Nottingham and has held other staff nurse posts at Harlow Wood, Manchester and Guy's Hospital.

Paul and Angela are members at Lymm Baptist Church and together co lead the Crusaders (five to seven year olds.) Paul has also worked with Warrington Youth for Christ and has helped with the running of the church's youth club.

Angela has assisted with a church-based Alpha course and then led the nurture group for new Christians that followed on from this.

The couple have three children.

Before they leave for Nepal they will undertake training in theological and cross-cultural studies.

Sarah Hall

Sarah Hall is also a medical recruit for BMS. Currently she works as a practice nurse at a medical centre in Milton Keynes, and her nursing qualifications include a Certificate in Tropical Nursing, awarded two years ago.

Sarah is in membership at Stony Stratford Baptist Church, where she is a joint housegroup leader.

The country of service is not fully known at present and will be determined after further consultation. However it is likely to be Nepal or North Africa.

News in Brief

News

No Globes - but we have Windsor Castle

We don't appear to have had many globe money boxes returned to Didcot, but we take that as good news, and assume you are all using them to raise money for BMS.

However we had a very interesting letter in the Editorial Office recently, from the Australian Baptist Missionary Society, and it included pictures of a wooden money box made of oak panelling taken from Windsor Castle.

In 1827 John James was employed at Windsor Castle to help repair some of the old oak panels. Rather than waste them, he made a small replica of the castle's main gate. In the model, the towers on either side of the gateway became money boxes, and he encouraged his two sons to put their pennies into them. Each year the boxes were emptied, and their contents given to BMS.

One of the boxes found its way to Australia via John's three granddaughters, Lucy, Bertha and Emma, who attended the Armadale Baptist Church, Victoria.

Some years ago it was given to a missionary enthusiast in New South Wales, where for years it held pride of place on her lounge mantelpiece. She kindly donated it to ABMS, where it has found a final resting place at their headquarters.

John Barclay

A former President of the Baptist Union of Scotland, John Barclay has been nominated as Vice-President of the BMS for 1997/98, and will succeed as President at next year's Baptist Assembly at Blackpool.

John is the son of BMS missionaries, his father having served at Serampore College,

India from 1929 to 51, and since then John has continued his contact with BMS and world mission. At present he is Secretary of the Edinburgh and Lothian Baptist Association Missionary Auxiliary, and Convenor of the World Mission and International Affairs Committee of the BU of Scotland. He also is a member of General Committee, and last year was elected to Candidate Board and the Nominations Committee. He is also currently serving on the General Committee Working group.

John's background is in education and he has held posts as a Lecturer and Deputy Principal in Colleges of Education in England.

Together with his wife Kathleen, he is in

membership at Morningside Baptist Church, Edinburgh.

Alan Barker

At the AGM of the BMS held at the Baptist Assembly, legal consultant Alan Barker was appointed BMS Honorary Solicitor, taking over from Peter Clark who has served BMS in this capacity for more than 20 years.

In fact Peter has known Alan for around 50 years and at one time was his Sunday School teacher in Watford! Alan started his career as a practising solicitor in Ipswich in 1966, but has taken a couple of career breaks to work firstly with Scripture Union in Cape Town in 1994 where he monitored the South African elections, and then in a similar role in Bosnia.

Alan is a member of Burlington Baptist Church, Ipswich, and is also a Suffolk County Councillor.

Money, Money, Money

BMS Treasurer Mervyn Hancock told the BMS AGM that, although contributions to BMS had risen in the last year, expenditure had exceeded income, and in the end £239,092 had to be taken from the General Reserve to meet the deficit.

However the deficit was lower than anticipated because of the profit on the sale of investments and an increase in contributions from churches.

Total spending came to £4,784,383, but total income was only £4,545,291. Most of the contributions were for general work (£2,965,974); income from legacies was only 55% of that received the previous year, £563,376 as against £1,015,395, but this had been forecast in the estimates.

BMS General Committee

Daring recommendations have been put forward by a special General Committee Working Group, which, if accepted, could mean a new look to the BMS General Committees of the future.

The Group was set up last summer to consider the structure of the committee, its size and membership, frequency and length of meetings, location, chairmanship and costs.

Currently General Committee has a membership of 204, but this large number of people cannot practically be involved in detailed management and policy making. It was therefore recommended that General Committee be reduced in size to 118. It will still oversee the work of BMS, but will no longer be responsible for the management of the Society's affairs. It will remain the steering, monitoring and appointing body, and be a forum for discussion on policy matters.

Meanwhile the Board of Management will deal with routine matters, and will be responsible for the detailed working of managing the BMS within the policies determined by General Committee.

Other recommendations were that General Committee should only meet twice a year, and that these meetings should be residential. This would allow more time for a whole variety of activities and would also save on costs.

Relief Fund

Since the BMS Relief Fund's Compassion in Action leaflet was printed last autumn, the following grants have been made:

OCTOBER 96
To help Rwandan refugees in Tanzania £5,000
OCTOBER 96
Aid for victims of train bomb in Sri Lanka £200
DECEMBER 96
Chandraghona Hospital, Bangladesh £1,400
DECEMBER 96
Help for tornado victims, Bangladesh £1,640
DECEMBER 96
Rwandan refugees (via BWA) £10,000
JANUARY 97
Kinshasa air crash victims £550
MARCH 97
Burma Border Consortium £5,000
MARCH 97
Food for Albania up to £5,000
APRIL 97
Barisal Mission Hospital £5,000
APRIL 97
Help for cholera outbreak, Bolobo, Zaire £2,000
APRIL 97
Help for cholera outbreak, Yakusu, Zaire up to £7,500

Baptist House News

Andy Smith

The news is good! Andy is out of hospital, and has finished his chemotherapy treatment. His doctors are very pleased with his progress, and his most recent body scan was clear.

Please keep praying for Andy and his family.

Hello to Rob Vaines

Perhaps some of you were surprised when you heard a young male voice on the end of the telephone when you asked for BMS Resources, expecting to hear a Scottish female accent! As previously reported Christine Neilson and her husband Jim have moved to New Zealand, and Rob Vaines has taken over the daunting task of despatching all your AV and literature orders, and keeping a check on stock levels.

Rob has come to Didcot from Mexborough in Yorkshire, where he was Executive Administrator of the Yorkshire Alliance of Baptist Youth.

Good-bye to Phil Marsden

At the end of June Phil Marsden, the BMS Youth and Children's Co ordinator, left the Society to take up a position as Youth Co-ordinator at Queen's Park Baptist Church, Glasgow.

Phil originated the new WOW magazine for children, the WOW Club, WOW Action Days, and Roadshows and overhauled the structure of 28:19 Action Teams.

APOLOGY

"Great magazine - shame you can't get our order right."

We know, we know, and we offer you our most sincere apologies if there has been a mix-up with your mh order. We appreciate you have heard this before, but since the installation of our new computer system, things have not run smoothly here at BMS. We suddenly found all sorts of problems that we had not anticipated, and this has mainly manifested itself in our database, with knock-on effects in our ability to print off lists, labels and invoices that make sense.

Please don't get too disheartened yet if things take a little time to be put right. By all means, keep on telling us if subsequent orders are still not as you would like, but also bear with us, and keep calm!

Our small staff are working flat out to correct something like 15,000 records and get them completely up-to-date. We genuinely want to see everything working as it should as much as you do.

BMS news

News

ISRAEL

The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has joined with other religious groups and appealed to the government of Israel to reconsider a proposed new law that threatens Christian witnessing there. This law would imprison any one believed to be guilty of activities seen as "an inducement for religious conversion" for one year. (BWA News)

SOUTH AFRICA

Easter Sunday in East London, saw more than a million members of Africa's biggest church, the Zionist Christian Church (ZCC), take part in the church's annual Easter gathering in a little-known village called Moria in the north of South Africa. The ZCC is an independent church with an estimated total membership of 7.1 million, most of them poor blacks. (ENIB)

UKRAINE

Eleven years after the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, the people, and especially the children are still suffering. BWA regional secretary for Europe, Karl Heinz Walter, said in Klincy, a small town in Russia close to the Chernobyl disaster, eight out of ten children are sick, and over 120,000 people continue to live in what is described as "a dangerous country." However, a group of 25 children from Chernobyl will visit Germany in the next few months. "This will give a symbol of hope," he said. (BWA News)

CENTRAL AMERICA

Nearly 500 people were killed and 1,500 injured, in accidents, or by violence in Central America during Holy Week. El Salvador was the most affected country with 221 people dying, followed by Honduras (138 deaths), Guatemala (62), Nicaragua (24),and Costa Rica (23). Of the deaths in El Salvador 49 were caused by gun shots. (LAP)

ITALY

The Federation of Protestant Churches and Seventh Day Adventist Churches in Italy have been working together to help meet the emergency created by the thousands of Albanian refugees landing on the South Eastern coast of Italy. They have been supporting the work at the refugee camp at Cassano Murge which hosts about 500 people. (nev)

News in Brief

Fanini Challenges Baptists

Baptist World Alliance President Nilson do Amaral Fanini issued a challenge to Baptists world-wide at the Executive Meeting of the BWA in March this year. "As we stand on the threshold of a new century we have before us opportunities to reach our world" he said. And he has asked Baptists to commit themselves to a three-fold goal: firstly, that every Baptist will win one more person to Christ before the year 2000; secondly, that every church will begin one new congregation before the turn of the century; and thirdly, that each member commit themselves to World Prayer 2000. This means praying for seven minutes each day for:

- personal revival
- family and friends revival
- pastor and church denomination
- city, nation and world leaders
- world evangelisation for the fulfilment of the Great Commission
- the breakdown of Satan's strongholds
- and Operation Andrew (praying for ten people to come to Christ by the year 2000). (BWA News)

Nilson Fanini issues a challenge to all Baptists world-wide

Reconciliation Walk in Turkey

"It's not unusual for Westerners to come here for a holiday", said a travel agent, "but this was special. People want to take their holidays, and speak about forgiveness." The travel agent was talking about Phase Two of a Reconciliation Walk in Turkey, launched last year, with the aim of taking a personal message of apology for the way medieval Crusades misrepresented Christianity to the people of the Middle East. According to Lynn Green, the project's international co-ordinator, the years of brutal fighting are the root of on-going hostility and misunder-standing between the three major religions. Among the first short-term walkers to arrive in Turkey this year was 65 year old American Janice Dubie. "I count it a real privilege to be able to go and apologise for the Crusades' having misrepresented King Jesus, and for all the harm that was done in his name," she said. "I hope that through this initiative many hearts will be touched, and the bitterness they feel will be replaced with love."

This bridge building effort is being well received in Turkey. Cathy Nobles, the

field director commented: "It is difficult for us as Westerners to understand how deep this wound goes. It's hard to describe the depth of feeling the message stirs in the Turkish people. There is an emotional response in which you can see the deep scars the Crusades have left on their hearts."

The Reconciliation Walk continues until July 1999, when a special prayer gathering is planned in Jerusalem to mark the 900th anniversary of the fall of the city to the Crusaders.

(YWAM News)

Bible Society gives Bibles and rice to prisoners

The Peruvian Bible Society (SBP) has announced a new initiative to link distribution of the Bible to social commitment by giving a Bible and a kilo of rice to each of Peru's 1800 women prisoners.

The first prison to benefit from this project will be the Santa Monica gaol in Lima, where there are more than 700 women inmates.

The SBP are not new to initiatives of this kind. Last year they called on Christians to give 75 cents to provide a piece of bread and a copy of John's gospel to every street child in Peru. Another project consisted of delivering a Bible and a packet of seeds to peasants returning to their villages after being displaced by political violence. (ENIB)

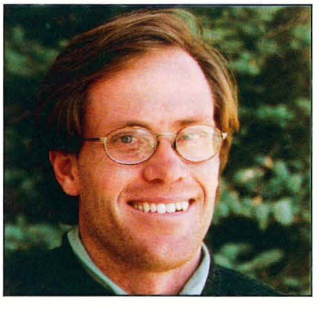
"Prison made me love them more"

A Christian worker has spoken out for the first time about his arrest and imprisonment in Iran.

While visiting friends in Colorado, USA, Daniel Baumann, a Swiss-American, aged 33, told of how he and a South African colleague, Stuart Timm, had been working in Central Asia. They went to Iran "to see what God was doing in the nation, and how foreign Christians could serve", but when they tried to leave, in January, their passports were confiscated, they thought, because of a technicality and were told to return to Tehran.

Once back in the capital they discovered they were suspected of spying. They were taken, blindfolded, to the city's infamous Evin prison, where they were given prison uniforms and locked in separate small cells, where they slept on the floor.

"It was scary at first" said Baumann. "But after the first few days I was gradually able to relax a bit more. I felt that God told me I should just be



completely open and honest about who I was and what I was doing; so I was." It was this motivation that led Baumann to share his faith in Christ with his interrogators during long hours of questioning, followed by days of solitary confinement.

Apart from the isolation he says he was treated "OK", with three meals a day - although he still lost almost 30 pounds during his imprisonment.

His colleague was released following intervention from the South African government, and Baumann's case was turned over to the courts. He began to accept he could be held "for months, even years."

Then, unexpectedly, one morning he was told to dress in his own clothes and clear his cell. "I didn't know what was going on. I could have been going to be executed. I thought maybe they were playing a game with me," he said.

Instead he was handed over to Swiss Embassy officials, and freedom. But Baumann says he bears no ill-will towards those who arrested and questioned him. "Any small mistreatment that may have happened was because of the system, not the people," he said.

(YWAM News)

Alistair Brown

Loving the unlovely

The old lady sits at the door of her hut, clutching a bag, listening to those around her. Nothing more, all day. She's blind, owns nothing of value, and is alive only because family and others give her care.

This is south India, and a rag-pickers village. Each day the people climb the refuse tip and scavenge for anything of value, often little more than reusable polythene bags. They resell what they find for a few rupees.

In the caste controlled hierarchy of Indian society these people are so low they are almost off the scale. Only the Christians bother with them, visiting the villagers and teaching the children.

I was glad to hear that. Jesus loved those reckoned unlovely and unwanted by his society, for they had value in God's eyes. The Indian villagers I met were destitute but had the dignity of children of God. Long may it be that the Christians are the people who bother with those others shun.

Albania: good news or bad?

Glyn Jones urges a balanced perspective.

All news from Albania at the moment seems to be bad news, especially where the work of the Christian Missions are concerned. At least, that is how it looks at first sight. For most of Albania has descended into anarchy; there is little "law and order" there today. All the BMS missionaries assigned to Albania are safe but they are also back in the UK. Consequently all their work has ceased and their young-in-the-faith Albanian converts were left leaderless. The aid programmes with which the BMS had been associated have now ceased. And finally the missionaries are not able to be in the place where they feel God wants them to be. So, it is all bad news, right?

The gutted agricultural library in Tirana - after the civil unrest.

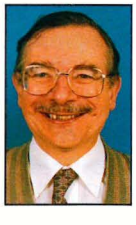
No! Strangely enough, it is not all bad news. There is actually a lot of very good news coming out of Albania as well as the bad news. For example, all over Albania evangelical Christians are meeting regularly for worship, for prayer and for bible study. Many of them are reporting renewed interest and not a few conversions. Among them are the three Baptist churches established as a result of BMS work. On Easter Sunday 1,200 evangelical Christians of Tirana met together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and they did so in "The Pyramid", which was Enver Hoxha's mausoleum (Hoxha was the man who declared all religion dead; today his body rots in an unmarked grave).

The Albanian evangelical churches now have Albanian leaders who are doing everything they can to build-up the churches in the absence of inputs from foreigners. When our BMS missionaries return to work in Albania they will have to adjust to this new situation. Before evacuation they had been pioneer missionaries, establishing Baptist churches in a country which had none. In future we can expect them to have the more normal role of support missionaries, working alongside autonomous Albanian Baptist churches.

What of the great majority of Albanians who profess no faith? They are now very disillusioned. Having dreamed of freedom to travel, they find they cannot get visas to do so. What they thought was a real democracy, for which they had waited so long, turned out to be a pale imitation of the real thing. Freedom of speech is limited and the media are still controlled by the ruling Party in Albania, though to be fair, they are less controlled than in Communist times. People are disappointed that their idea of capitalism, in the form of pyramid investment schemes, has failed to keep its promise to make them rich almost overnight and instead has left them worse off than ever. Albanians with integrity are sickened by corruption and bribery which are now rife. And some have begun to discover what we know from our own experience to be true: material possessions do not necessarily bring happiness, nor do increased social freedoms.

Against the background of the prevailing anarchy, their disillusionment will surely make Albanians more aware of the importance of moral and spiritual values in creating a contented nation. At the moment these values are lacking in Albania: 40 years of Hoxha's communism largely eliminated a sense of right and wrong, and people have learned to suppress any feeling of guilt they may have for the evil they perpetrate. This fact underlies the present widespread and terrifying descent into anarchy.

We know from scripture and history that a just society only grows out of a firm ethical foundation, and in their search for this we may be sure many more Albanians will find the teaching of the bible relevant to them personally. Despite, or perhaps because of, the long deprivation from all things spiritual, many people in Albania continue to be very interested in spiritual matters. Though Western-style materialism had begun to close their hearts during the last couple of years, the recent crises in the history of Albania will surely keep many of its people open to the good news of Christ: Redeemer, Rescuer and Hope of the World. With that in mind, pray that Albanian believers will become active in evangelising their own nation. ●



Glyn Jones was one of 16 BMS personnel evacuated from Albania in March this year. He and his wife Gill returned to Tirana at the end of May.

WORLD news

Inspiration, motivation, ideas, news on world mission for churches

World Mission Link

Dear Audrey
We know that World Mission Link embraces the whole world, and there have been many reminders these last months of the breadth of BMS involvement in the world - Albania, Indonesia, Zaire all making headline news. So we're finding that learning about the country where our Link Up missionaries live and work is not enough. We'd like to appreciate what is going on world-wide. What can we do?

Here are some of the things that other churches, faced with the same dilemma, have done:

Country afternoon for all the family - with food, songs, obstacle course, slides, and plenty of activities for young and old. In some cases the event was planned to coincide with a special day eg Independence Day.

Use *mh* creatively

- **Do a quiz based on one issue - churches have done this at special events, in youth groups and in Sunday services. It's fun, exciting, and even noisy!**
- **Use *mh* as the study material for your mid-week meeting at regular times throughout the year.**
- **Use the Prayer Focus pages to create a display for the World Mission notice board every two months.**

Involve young people

- **Encourage them to do a drama at a BMS event. One church asked their young people's group to repeat the drama at the Sunday morning service so that more people could see and hear, and it was a great success!**
- **They also love doing things like making banners, displays and posters. One small village church's Children's Club produced a wall-sized world map.**

Use the BMS video Making Jesus Known.

During the past year many churches and groups have written saying they have used this video and accompanying study pack. Most have used it in their mid-week meeting or in house groups, but it's also been shown in Sunday services and in events involving lots of churches.

And lastly
There are lots of churches, children's groups, and young people who have taken the project of the year to heart, and worked for it, and shared it with others. Some use the prepared material, and others are more adventurous, and come up with their own services and special events. If your church has done something, we'd love to hear from you, and photos of events are an added bonus. ●

In May/June ***mh*** we reported how Clive Doubleday, minister of Poverest Road Baptist Church, Orpington embarked on a sponsored preach in London and Paris. Altogether the total sponsorship money, which Clive donated to BMS, came to £1250.

Here you can see Clive handing the cheque over to Alistair Brown, General Director of BMS, with Philip Halliday, minister of Massy Baptist Church, Paris, looking on.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday July 5
East Surrey Region Mission Event at Carshalton Beeches
Details: Stan Crees 0181 647 2441

Saturday July 10
Merseyside Baptist Women's Fellowship Rally at Richmond Baptist Church

Tuesday September 9 - Friday September 12
Wales WMA Conference, Pantycelyn Hall, Aberystwyth
Details: Delth Wyn Davies 01766 512957

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

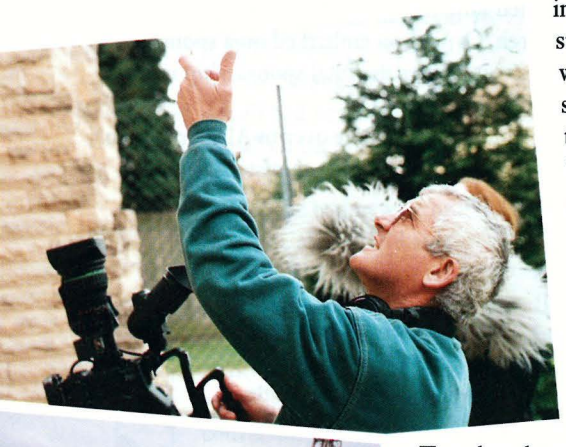
HEARD AFTER ONE CHURCH EVENT
"I don't understand all this about 'being a mess'. Why does 'being a mess' work in 30 countries?"
"I said BMS works in 30 countries."
"That's what I said - 'being a mess.'"

Take 1 Committed

Terry and Barbara Page

Tandem TV and Film are a self professed "pawn in the game" operating out of the 'Hollywood of Hertfordshire' otherwise known as Hemel Hempstead. Probably you will have seen some of their work without even realising it! Tandem TV provided television coverage of the final breakthroughs in the digging of the channel tunnel, and closer to home, the recent BMS videos "You can make the Difference" and "Making Jesus Known". But who are the people that comprise Tandem TV, and why do they do it?

Tandem TV is essentially the outworking of two people - Terry and Barbara Page. Both possess an amazing sense of vision and purpose to work within the television and film industry. Terry is no stranger to the cause, having worked widely in the field since his early twenties on the likes of "Horizon", "Tomorrow's World" and specialist travel and industrial films. Barbara officially joined the team in 1989 after spending some years in publishing with Lion, prior to which she had also been in the film and video industry.



Together they represent a terrific partnership, wholly committed to a vital ministry of sharing the gospel with three key hallmarks: a genuine concern for people, resourcing, and technological excellence. And this desire is firmly based on their love for and commitment to Jesus.

When it comes to excellence, they pride themselves on being at the cutting edge of technology. Lurking under a desk sits a computer with more memory and storage space than the average congregation, while numerous shelves are filled with CDs to get just the right music for every job. These have just been joined by a state-of-the-art digital camera which will further enhance the quality of their work. It soon becomes apparent that one thing which saddens them both is the attitude of "It's all right" or "It doesn't matter, it will do!" sometimes adopted by Christians when it comes to making use of the media. Whilst agreeing that part of this commitment to technological excellence stems from a training in the BBC, and continuing work within secular industry, they are both unabashed in sharing their main motivation: "If it is being done for the Lord, it should be at least as good, but preferably better than the standards of the world." And this is the standard they apply to all their work, be it a health and safety training video within the industrial sector, or a promotional video for Spring Harvest.

ABOVE: On location with Terry and Barbara.

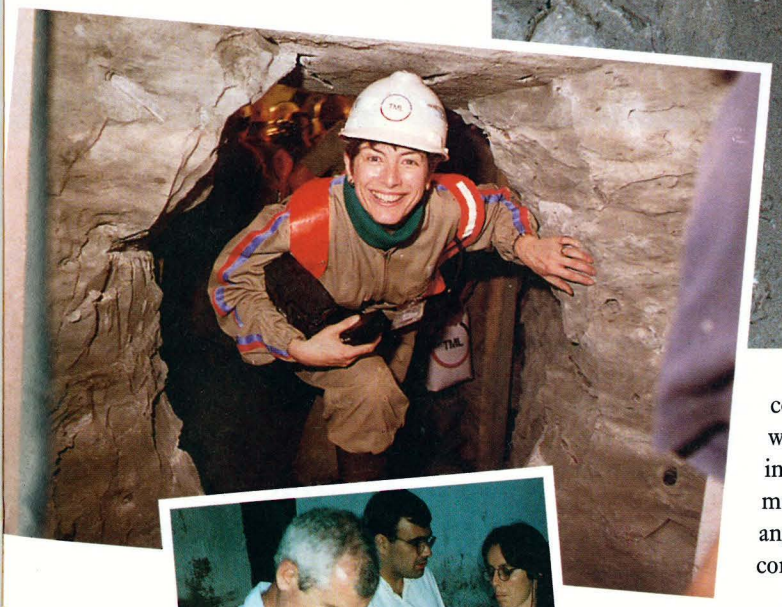
Despite being surrounded by all this glittering technological treasure, Terry and Barbara see it for what it really is, a resource. "It's a tool," says Barbara, "no different to pen and ink!" And a tool which they both gladly anticipate more and more churches utilising as the technology becomes increasingly accessible. Even here, however, they are keen to point out that churches should not embrace the technology just for the sake of it; rather, as society becomes less 'reading' orientated, it should be recognised as a powerful resource for communicating the gospel.

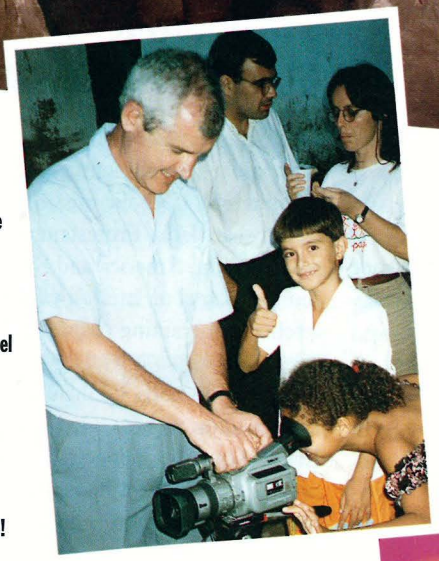
And ultimately, being a resource is how Barbara and Terry see themselves, both to the Christian and the secular community. In terms of the Christian community, they have produced numerous resources for a whole host of different organisations, including BMS. It soon becomes clear that a vast amount of work goes into providing these resources. For example, "Making Jesus Known" involved substantial research and filming in Thailand, Brazil, Belgium, and Zaire, in addition to producing an accompanying workbook and guide. Tandem TV are also responsible for producing this year's "Would you take the Risk?" videos, and a separate video by trainee Hannah Edy entitled "a piece of the Action" promoting the 28:19 Action Teams. Terry and Barbara really enjoyed working with BMS and commented on how much "part of the family" they were made to feel, and they are hopeful of further joint ventures in the future.

In addition to providing resources, they also have a great desire to help others make the most of their own resources. One key vision is to establish a Video Summer School primarily to train missionaries on home assignment in how to make effective video diaries which can then be shown to their supporting churches. Terry literally beams as he explains their desire to see more "salt and light in the business", and their

excellence

CHRIS POPE VISITED TWO PEOPLE WHO RUN A TELEVISION AND FILM COMPANY, AND CALL IT THEIR MINISTRY





ABOVE: Barbara Page is the first woman through the Channel Tunnel divide
RIGHT: Terry Page takes a break in filming for BMS in Brazil!

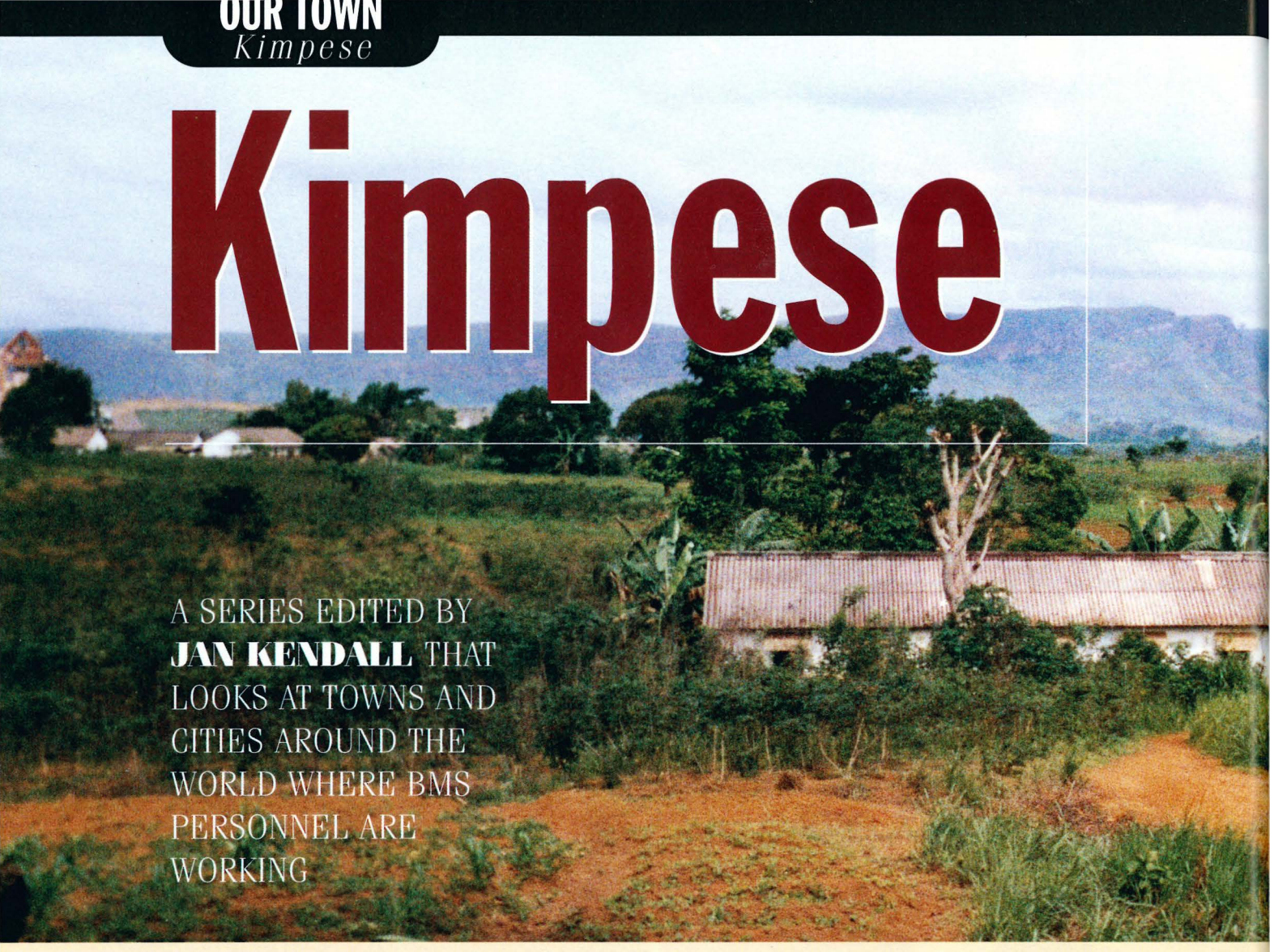
commitment to training young people interested in working in the highly competitive world of the media industry. Even here, their understanding of their role as a ministry shines through as Barbara's first word of advice for anyone wanting to pursue such a career is to prayerfully consider it as a calling, just like any other ministry.

And ministers they are. Behind all the technology, the resources and the resourcing are two people with a heart for others and a mission to spread the love of God and his word to the media world, and through the world of the media. They are two people seeking to "live as salt and light, living lives that make a difference to other people". As such, they are two people who would value our prayers that God would continue to bless their ministry, and steer Tandem TV and Film where he wants in the future.

Chris Pope is Youth pastor at Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church

ABOVE: The final frontier - Tandem TV marks the breakthrough under the Channel.

Kimpese



A SERIES EDITED BY **JAN KENDALL** THAT LOOKS AT TOWNS AND CITIES AROUND THE WORLD WHERE BMS PERSONNEL ARE WORKING

On the road from Matadi

Situated on the old caravan route from the coast inland, Kimpese in Zaire is a lively, busy place. In the centre of town there's hustle, bustle and noise, and everywhere a covering of dust which quickly changes to thick, red mud when it rains.

Lorries, vans and cars filled to bursting bump their way over the many potholes, often stopping to let their occupants buy at the roadside stalls or park for an overnight rest. Except for a brief lull just before dawn, buying and selling continues around the clock.

Most people in and around Kimpese are of Bakongo descent, pygmies and immigrant Bantu from the ancient Kingdom of Kongo, which included what is now known as Angola.

In the late 1800s, labourers were brought in from Angola to build a new railway linking the main port of Matadi with the capital, Kinshasa (now the 360 km road along the same route passes straight through the town).

Since 1961, Angolan refugees have likewise been finding their way to Kimpese but you will find very few other foreigners here.

Most people have access to piped water, though the nearest community tap may be several hundred yards away. The fortunate few also have electricity and a few households even have television.

Shops, houses and schools are built sturdily enough, though you can still spot wattle and daub walls and the occasional thatched roof. Families are forced to work hard in their fields to survive: in September, the onion crop is sold to raise money for school fees, uniforms and exercise books.

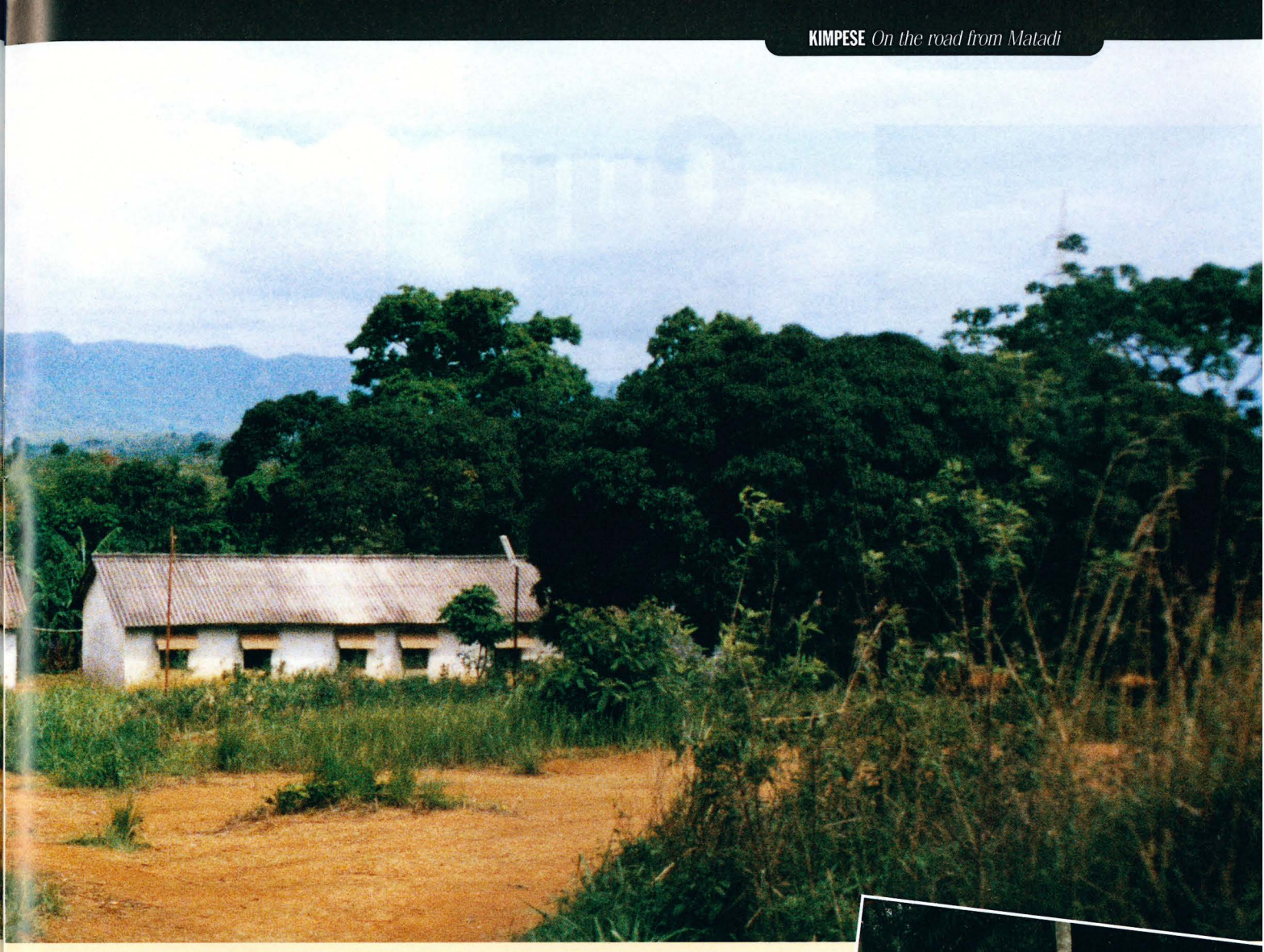
At other times of the year, such basic essentials are covered by the sale of manioc, peanuts, beans, soya and other produce. As in the more remote equatorial forest villages, goats, sheep and chickens wander everywhere, whereas pigs are better cared for and often kept in special enclosures.

Christian influence

In education

Christians have been central to Kimpese's development, ever since the opening of a Catholic mission in 1901. Seven years later, Protestant missionaries from Britain, America and Sweden found a parcel of land on which to build a school for training pastors and primary school teachers.

Still run jointly by the church communities that founded it, the Centre Evangelique de Cooperation (CECO) now comprises six schools in all: one nursery school, two primary - each with



about 1000 pupils - and three secondary.

At secondary level, those students who can afford it can begin to specialise in practical skills (mechanic, carpentry etc), science or agriculture. Then, on the same site, those who pass the State diploma exam can enter the Protestant University of Kimpese (UPK) to study a range of courses including medicine, law, economics and environmental studies.

A part-time postgraduate course in theology has recently been launched, to complement the four-year pastoral training offered by the CECO Bible School.

Christian influence

In health

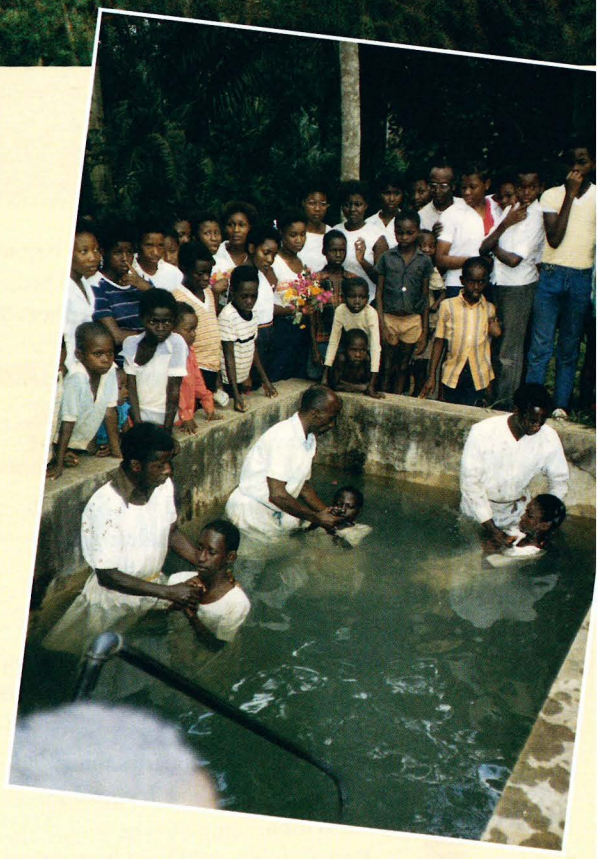
Life for the ordinary people of Kimpese is cramped and squalid. Small houses built close together are crammed with people, so diseases like measles spread fast and can be fatal. Especially vulnerable are young children, starved of the protein they need in their diet to fight common illnesses.

Water sources are often contaminated; many people suffer from infestation by worms. Drug resistant forms of malaria and tuberculosis, as well as typhoid are all on the increase, helped by poor sanitation and the onset of AIDS.

The belief that sickness is caused by witchcraft and ill-will means that people often go first to the local witch-doctor or traditional healer. Only if that fails do they seek professional help which, particularly in the case of children, is often too late.

In addition, unauthorised medicines sold at market and in the so-called "pharmacies" give inadequate or inappropriate treatment, and can result

Continued on Page 22



TOP: Kimpese – a view towards the hills. ABOVE: Church life – one of the regular baptismal services

Our town

Kimpese

Continued from Page 21

in resistance to antibiotics. That is why, in 1952, the Evangelical Medical Centre (IME) opened as a joint project between BMS, the American Baptists, the Swedish Covenant Church (SMF) and the Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA).

Since then, IME has grown to become a major teaching hospital with 400 beds. Health education and medical services to the local community (including a vaccination programme and the regional leprosy team) are well-organised, but hampered by lack of state finance and deep-rooted superstition.

IME was established by a Swedish mission but BMS has made a great contribution both financially and in personnel.

BMS's influence is great in other ways. In the French language service, the songbooks used at the compound's church had been prepared by Steve and Carolyn Green, missionaries until 1991. There is also a building designed by David Wilson.

Both Carolyn and David have served as BMS presidents.

Christian influence

In employment and community

As well as teaching and health care, these Christian institutions offer the rare chance of a paid job: CECO now employs about 150 people (including teachers) compared to IME's staff of 400.

Apart from the State offices and schools, other such opportunities in Kimpese are very rare. Even if one family member is fortunate enough to find a job, most will need to supplement that income with what they can produce from their fields.

Spare time is precious, spent mostly in the bars, on the football pitch or making music in one of the many church choirs.

Kimpese houses eight different Protestant denominations, with ten churches and several other smaller groups. But co-operation is good, with monthly leaders' meetings to plan joint activities.

Meanwhile, the main Catholic church, not far from CECO, has a smaller daughter church near to IME, and the Kimbanguists have their own church with a large congregation.

But the number of sects is increasing, most notably the Bundu dia Kongo (BDK) – a mixture of witchcraft and animism, which teaches that Jesus was for the Jewish nation (which in their view includes Europe and North America) so Africans must look to a different saviour.●

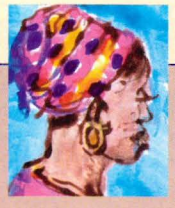
First impressions

Delyth Wyn Davies, the BMS North and Mid Wales Co-ordinator visited Zaire last year

On the outskirts of the town, Gwen turned our car into the IME compound. The compound is on a beautiful site on high ground with fantastic views all around. To the north we could see mountains similar to those in Wales, mountains which we had been admiring throughout the last part of our journey. When we arrived the sun had already begun to set and the flame trees were a glorious bright orange. I was surprised at the compound itself – it is large, the smart buildings are well spaced and there is a lot of greenery with grassy lawns and all kinds of trees and bushes. The workers' houses are semi-detached bungalows set in neat gardens. Everything seemed to be in good condition, in stark contrast to most places we had visited.

The road through Kimpese was full of muddy or wet holes, more so than in other towns. We went through the commercial part and saw people selling goods from small wooden stalls at the roadside, or from rows of single storey one roomed wooden shops. Many large lorries, laden with goods, were parked on the roadside, probably for an overnight stop. The impression was of a bustling town, where there was at least a sense of hope of earning a living with all the passing trade.

My only regret is that we did not have the time to get to know the town and its people. ●



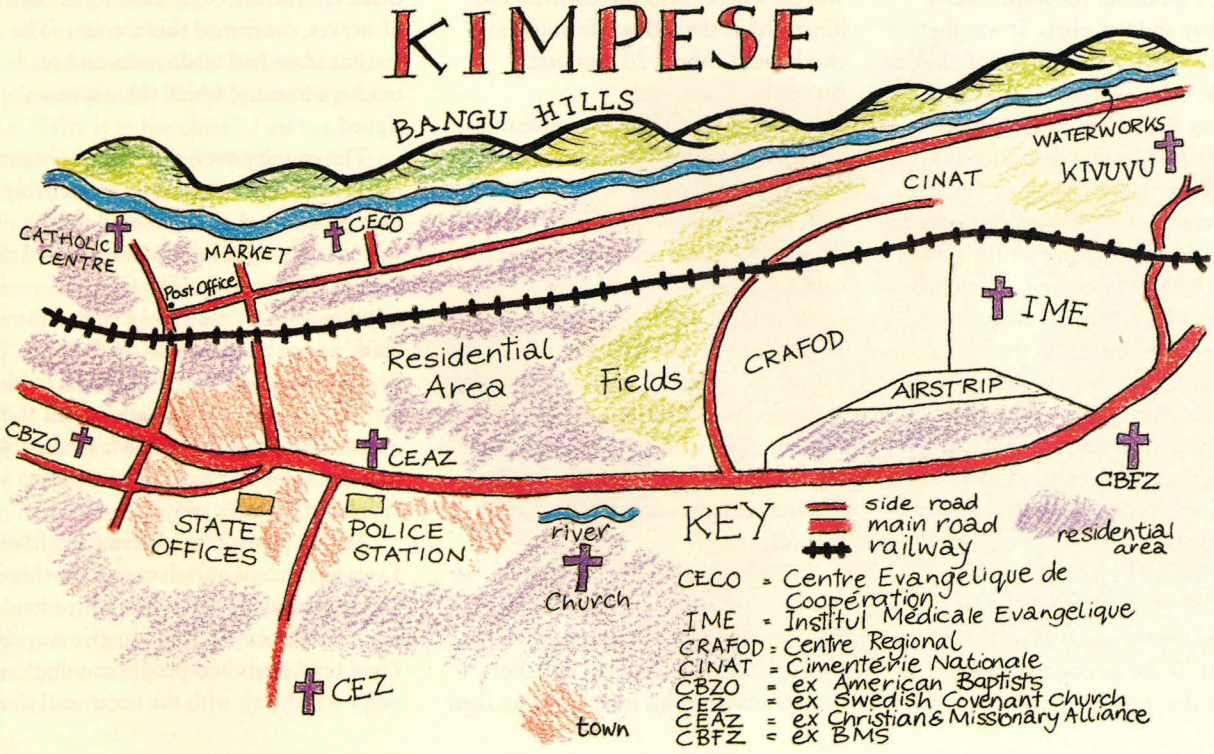
Profile: Mama Nkenge

Life has been hard for Mama Nkenge. A widowed refugee from Angola, she has brought up her three children single-handed, with no income other than what she has earned by selling bananas and other produce from her garden, mostly to missionaries. It is a struggle just to find money to buy a 5kg bag of sugar - the monthly rent on the family's tiny two-roomed house. Elderly and in poor health, her burdens seem to get heavier as her children reach adulthood. Both boys have learned carpentry, but even so work is hard to come by. The eldest got a girl pregnant, forcing his mother to pay a fine to the girl's family, as well as all the costs of the birth. The second boy, sick for much of his life, is now being treated for TB, a severe drain on the family income he was expecting to bolster. The daughter is now living away from home with the father of her third child, but has left her mother to bring up the other two. Yet Mama Nkenge, who has a very simple Christian faith, just says: "I don't know how I would have managed all these years without the help of God and his people." ●

FAR LEFT: Preparing and cooking food for hospital patients

ABOVE: Smart wards at IME – in a crumbling economy the church provides dignified surroundings for the sick

LEFT: They make do and mend in the hospital pharmacy



ZAIRE ZAIRE ZAIRE ZAI

THE DAY WE HAD OUR VEHICLE REQUISITIONED BY THE CIVIL GUARD BY **OWEN CLARK**

How on earth did we get into this? We were chugging up the uneven, sandy road in third gear, the rear end swaying a bit under the load. Twelve men, a boy and five goats. It was the goats. We weren't in the habit of shifting livestock, but it was their very legitimacy. Like King Saul when Samuel asked "What is this bleating that offends my ears?" Where had we gone wrong? We were operating from Bwantaba's mud hut of a guesthouse. Waiting for the coffee water to boil that morning, a man had served us with a "Vehicle Requisition" from the Civil Guards up the road. A misnomer if ever there was one! In military uniform they're armed and not especially civil. What they guard is anyone's guess, their main activity being to stop lorries and relieve travellers of their readies.

"Under the terms of Ordinance Law No 036/84 of 28/08/96..." it said, "your vehicle is requisitioned to go to the village of Yo for an enquiry into the death of the chief by burning. We count on your understanding and moral sense." Thanks! Romans 13 notwithstanding, we weren't keen to get involved. On the other hand, Yo was on chief Labi's list of villages where BMS missionaries had itinerated in the 1930s. We ought to check it out. About 20 kms past Bwantaba, it was said.

From the turning to Bwantaba was already eight kms. A further 12 brought us to Limbimi. Ahead the Inga-Shaba high tension cables hung from massive pylons, like giants marching across the landscape with skipping ropes.

Passing beneath and climbing the rise Yo ought to have come into view, but no such luck. The road ran through a broad, shallow valley, extending to the horizon without a hut in sight. Not even a tree. A shaggy brow of a hill on the distant horizon, Gilbert said, hid Yo. A good 15 kms off!

Reaching the forested hill at last, we had done 40 kms from the main road. Palm fronds screened the chief's large house, where the body lay, and the commandant led his men in to pay their respects. Chairs were brought and the enquiry set up under the trees. The commandant asked what had happened, and a grisled "Chef de quartier" gave his account. The chief had gone out in the morning with two boys to burn off the long grass in a field. They had lit the fire and retreated, but he had fallen to the ground. Unable to rouse him the boys had run to the village. By the time villagers got there the flames had engulfed the body, and the chief was dead. One of the boys, showing no sign of nerves, confirmed this account. The commandant had made notes and read out his summary, which the witnesses signed.

The enquiry over, negotiations began on one side with the elders, presumably over expenses. A goat tethered nearby was led off to the vehicle, but this did not appear to be enough. The Chef de quartier, another man and a son of the chief's were bundled into the back, darkness now rapidly falling. On a track across open country, the talk was all about a farm. Winding slowly down a valley, we came to a stop in pitch darkness, a fire visible fifty metres away.

At that point things became confused. Everyone except ourselves and the three hostages headed for the fire, where loud argument broke out, soon to give way to rapid hoof beats and people running every whichway, with the occasional shot

RE ZAIRE ZAIRE ZAIRE

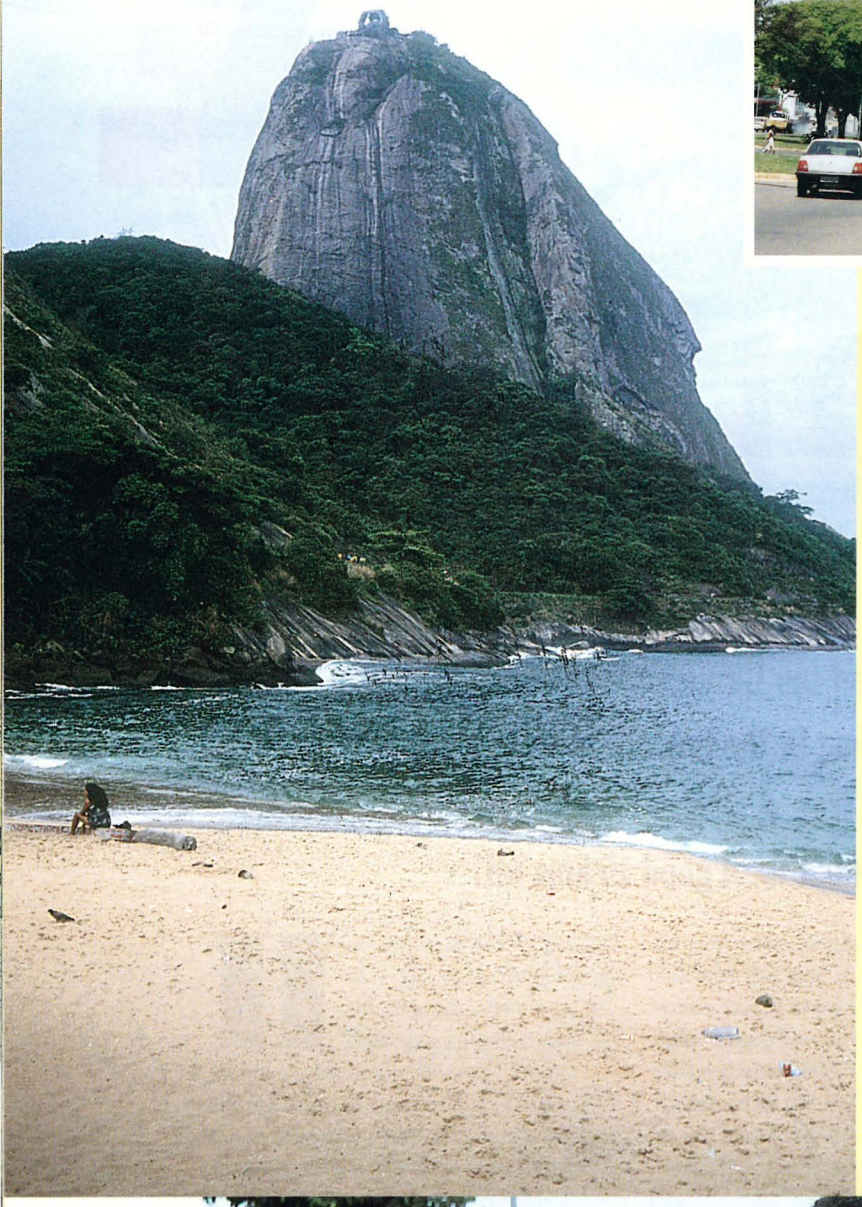
A Fair Distance

fired in the air. Goats began to arrive, swung by their legs between two people and were hoisted into the back. Everyone piled in, the commandant said "We've finished", and we found our way back to the road. In the dark the return through the valley and back under the cables, had seemed endless. We were now approaching Bwantaba. Why had we ever got involved?

"You'd better have one of the goats" said the commandant, aware of the unpaid extra distance. First instinct was to refuse. But what about the monotonous diet of the Bwantaba folk. Fufu and pondu. They'd never forgive me. "Give it to the chief" I said at Bwantaba. He'd know whether to return it to Yo or simply observe Bateke custom. On delivering the remaining goats to the Civil Guard HQ in Mbankana the commandant expressed his gratitude, and sent for three bottles of Coke. On paper 40 kms doesn't sound much, but on that road, under those conditions, it had been a fair distance.

Next day, with some embarrassment, we bumped into the "Chef de quartier" on his way back to Yo. "When are you coming to my village?" he asked. "We don't have a church." It was a relief to know that he held nothing against us. "We have a busy programme", we said, "and it's a fair distance, but one day we'll come." ●

The road ran through a broad, shallow valley, extending to the horizon without a hut in sight. Not even a tree. A shaggy brow of a hill on the distant horizon hid Yo. A good 15 kms off!



LEFT: Southern American idyll – Sugar Loaf Mountain

ABOVE INSETS: Campo Grande where contrasts are all too apparent

BELOW: On the edge of society – and the city – Campo Grande's favela community

BELOW INSET: First Baptist Church, Campo Grande, where there is a ministry to the deaf

With f

Brian had been a director with Reckett and Colman (the mustard people), but was now retired and serving as missions director in a Baptist Church in Sao Paulo. We sat down together one evening and compared the giving of our two churches.

I had always thought that Shirehampton Baptist Church was generous, particularly when it came to giving to missions, but I was in for an awakening that evening. The average wage in Brazil, according to Patrick Johnstone in Operation World, is about one-sixth of the average wage in this country. We worked out that night that our church gives about $60.00 per member per month. In their church it was $72.00 per member per month. Then Brian went over to a

Everywhere I went I

ROBERT STACEY SPENT FIVE WEEKS IN SOUTH AMERICA AND SAW THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED IN WORD AND ACTION

ervour and generosity

dresser and took down an envelope which he passed to me. Inside were two wedding rings. He said that they had received a special offering for mission the previous Sunday. One couple had nothing to give, and yet they felt they must give something. They agreed together to give their wedding rings, because they felt that the good news of Jesus was so vital.

In the five weeks that I spent in South America, I visited five cities, and spoke to 30 pastors, 10 missionaries and countless other Christians. One church I visited in Buenos Aires has services from 1am to midnight. They shut for just one hour to clean the building. This goes on seven days a week. When the pastor is around, he sometimes preaches 10 times in one day!

The best estimates put the number of Christians in Brazil at around 16 per cent of the population, but that figure is increasing all the time, and the church is said to be growing at around four times the rate of the growth of the population.

One afternoon I joined about 20 pastors from Baptist churches around Rio. Every church represented was experiencing growth, and the smallest had 400 members. I stayed with a pastor in Rio, who had spent a number of years studying in Bristol. During the week I spent in Rio, everywhere I went I was introduced as "the pastor from England who will now bring us a word"!

First, it was their youth group (just 600 members), then a testimony and a song in the morning service (to 1,200 people). Next, preaching in two new church plants in the afternoon (one that meets under a tree, and the other in a favela or slum), then preaching again in the evening service (to 1,200 people). I went to a birthday party just before I left, and even there I was introduced as "the pastor from England who will now bring us a word"!

The churches are not only preaching the gospel in word, but also in action. A number of the churches I visited had a ministry to deaf people. It was great to see up to 100 people worshipping the Lord by signing. When I spoke in one church I was being translated into Portuguese, and then into sign language.

A number of churches had joined together to start a work called "Hope Factory". They had acquired a redundant building, which was situated between eight favelas. They were providing many services to the community from this factory, particularly life skills training for young people.

I was impressed by the work that BMS is involved with in Sao Paulo. There is a team of workers providing good schooling for children aged five to seven from the favelas; there is no state provision for these children.

Stuart Christine, who is heading up this work, said to me that what he longs for is vibrant churches to be established in the favelas.

Last year First Baptist Church in Campo Grande became so concerned about the poorer people in the favelas that they drew together a team of professional people from the church to go into the favelas and for a week offered medical and dental care for free. They gave out tooth brushes to the children and showed them how to use them. They also shared the Lord Jesus with them.

At the end of the week the church said that they would come back and lead a bible study with anyone who would like that. It was held in the home of a man who had two small rooms in which he lived with his wife and nine children. I came home feeling that we need to do all we can to help our brothers and sisters as they reach out in love to try to address some of the immense needs in their country, not least because of successive corrupt governments.

Let's do all we can to help them as they serve the Lord.

Robert Stacey is minister of Shirehampton Baptist Church, Bristol

was introduced as the pastor from England who will now bring us a word!

TAKE 2

Take Two – a resource for church leaders and workers

Short Wave - did you know that?

- The 66 largest short-wave broadcasters provide 2,500 hours of programming a day

- Short-wave is valued most: in developing nations where TV and other high tech media are really only for the elite and urbanised sectors of society and in countries where information is regulated and censored

- It is estimated that 48% of the world's population is not free to receive information or choose from where they get it. Short-wave is still one of the most effective means to reach listeners who are not free.

- A consortium of companies has been formed to develop a 'smart' receiver to make tuning to short-wave as easy as medium wave. This consortium includes BBC, Voice of America, Deutsche-Welle, Radio Australia, Radio Austria, Radio Canada and three short-wave receiver manufacturers: Philips, Sangeaan and Sony.

- It is estimated that the last audiences to abandon short wave will be people with minority languages who are also more economically deprived.

Information supplied by John Wheatley, Consultant for New Technology at FEBC.

FACTS AND FIGURES
Number of TV sets and radio receivers per 1,000 people in:

Country	TVs	Radios
Albania	87	176
Angola	6	28
Bangladesh	5	43
Belgium	451	769
Brazil	207	386
Canada	639	1029
Central African Republic	4	68
El Salvador	92	412
France	407	888
Guinea	7	42
India	35	79
Indonesia	59	146
Italy	421	791
Nepal	2	33
Nicaragua	65	262
Sri Lanka	981	198
Thailand	114	191
Trinidad	315	492
UK	434	1143
USA	814	2118
Zaire	1	97
Zimbabwe	26	81

(Figures are for 1991)

Fact

'Up there' at the moment there are 1000 working communication satellites and another 1000 which are no longer working.

Useful addresses

Churches Advisory Council for Local Broadcasting (CACLB)
PO Box 124, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0QU.

Jeff Bonser is contactable on 01702 348369

Ian Rose/Soundwaves Radio, PO Box 223, Horsham, Sussex RH13 5FA

SAT-7 Head Office
PO Box 6760
CY-1647 Nicosia
CYPRUS
Phone (357) 2 36 10 50
Fax (357) 2 36 10 40
http://www.sat7.org

SAT-7 Support Office
PO Box 118 London SE9 2UB UK
Phone/Fax 0181 859 4035

Tandem TV & Film Ltd
10 Bargrove Avenue
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1QP
Phone 01442 61576

BMS Web site
http://www.rpc.ac.ox.uk/bms/index.htm

A bit of the Action

Robert Stacey talks about professional people from First Baptist Church, Campo Grande taking free medical and dental care into the favelas (p. 27) and sharing Jesus with the people there.

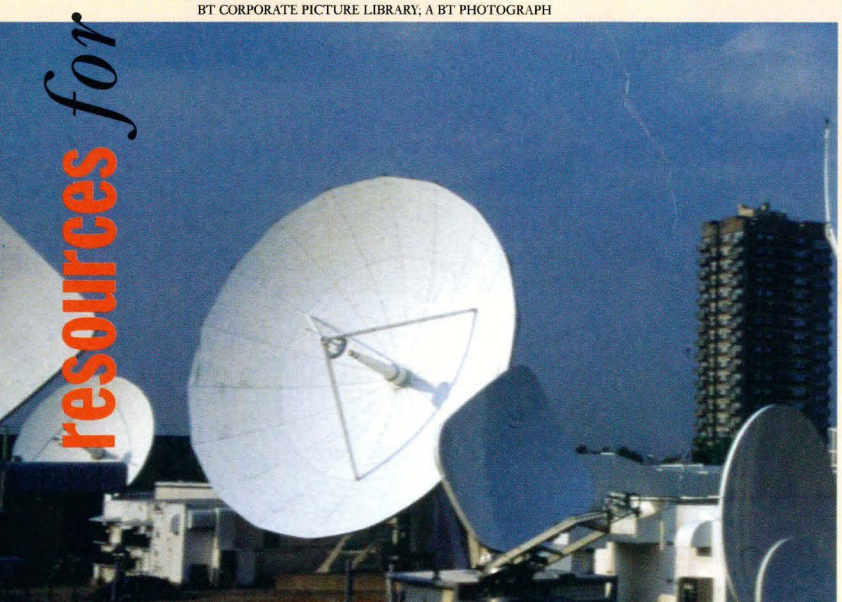
The term 'servant evangelism' has been coined - the church serving the community by undertaking practical tasks - absolutely free, demonstrating the free love of God. Evangelism at a head- to-head level can result in arguing, but when people are touched heart-to-heart, they often find it hard to resist. It has been said that our generation says "Show me, don't tell me."

The kind of projects you could undertake are:

- giving away hot or cold drinks
- shopping for 'shut-ins' or busy people
- doing a free shoe shine
- window cleaning
- gardening services
- gutter cleaning
- giving away free flowers on special days like Mothering Sunday
- providing meals and babysitting for people on their house moving day

resources for leaders

BT CORPORATE PICTURE LIBRARY, A BT PHOTOGRAPH



BOOK REVIEW

SHIFTING REALITIES

REVIEWED BY ROB VAINES

Information Technology and the Church by David Lockhead
Publisher: WCC

At first glance, I thought this book was about the way that technology is being introduced into church life, but it does actually examine more closely the technical side of technology. The author begins by exploring the demonic and messianic strains in our cultural images of technology, and then moves on to give the 'non-literate' person a long look at the basics of computer use, looking at communication, e-mail, the Internet, and above all, the World Wide Web. Also covered are computer influence in daily life: cash point transactions, TV remote control, microwave cooking and washing machines.

Lochhead also looks at how some churches, ministers and ministerial organisations are now more and more using computers, paying particular emphasis on the emergence of the largest interdenominational computer network: Ecunet.

Towards the end of the book, Lochhead asks questions like: What is this technology doing to us as people and as Christians? How is digital technology reshaping the world that we are living in? And what is our future in this technological world?

I personally have used computers for several years in the context of church application - producing weekly news sheets, newsletters and publicity - and so I was quite excited when I first saw this book. I thought it would give information about introducing or upgrading computers in church life. Regrettably, it did not live up to this expectation, and was, in fact, more of a technical manual complete with long lists of computer usage and advancements.

Rob Vaines is Resources Assistant in the BMS Department for Constituency Support

Letter to BMS

Dear BMS

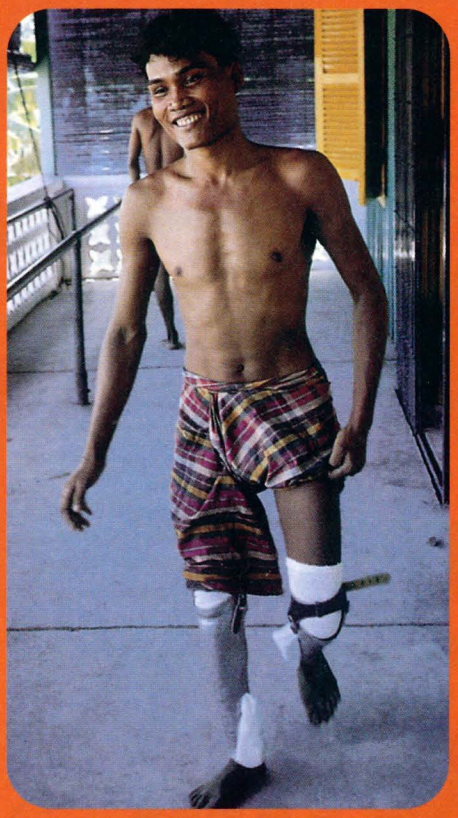
This is just a word of thanks for your site on the world wide web. It has come into its own with the rapidly changing situations in both Zaire and Albania. With these countries being in the news, but with not much being reported of specific missionary work, it was great to have the up-to-date info of what was happening. We found this particularly so with the evacuation of the Albanian missionaries. To pray on Sunday with news of them arriving safely at Heathrow the previous day has helped to make mission more immediate.

We discussed this at our Association council meeting last week, and there was a general feeling that BMS had got it right and had served us well.

Yours in his service

Revd Ian Inglis, Sandhurst Baptist Church

ACTION CARD



Landmines

The dazzling smile of this young man almost holds one's eyes from travelling down the picture to see that he is a victim of a landmine in Cambodia which blew off both his legs below the knees. Cambodia is one of the countries worst affected by landmines.

Landmines are about just that - land. They are used to deny land, destroying the fabric of rural societies which depend on agriculture and grazing. In Cambodia and Afghanistan an average of 35 per cent more land could be cultivated if it were not for the threat of mines. Areas once self-sufficient in food production often become reliant on aid.

Landmines are not legitimate weapons of war. Ninety per cent of victims killed by landmines are not soldiers, but civilians killed in peace time. Over 70 people each day are still being killed or injured by landmines. Children are especially vulnerable as childhood games and occupations such as herding and collecting firewood and water expose them to greater danger.

The new Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has raised the issue of landmines with his French and German colleagues. They agreed to give priority to the early conclusion of a legally-binding international agreement to ban world-wide the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines.

You may want to remember landmine victims by building rows of one of a pair of shoes (symbolising the victims - who no longer need them). Send this month's Action Card to Mr Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1, congratulating him on Mr Cook's statement on landmines.

TAKE 2

A piece

SAM GIBSON ASKS LAST YEAR'S ACTION TEAMS WHAT THEIR YEAR AT THE FRONT LINE OF MISSION HAS MEANT TO THEM

As one BMS 28:19 Action Team ends, another begins. The 1996/97 teams, having returned from places as far apart as Thailand, Brazil, Portugal, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Jamaica, and Portugal, have now also completed their tour of British Baptist churches.

After a final debriefing, they have launched back into life in the UK. Many have gone on to university, others are looking for jobs. Many have had their plans changed by God during the time they have been away.

So, have the struggles and challenges been worth it?

Without exception, team members speak about changed relationships with God.

"Never before have I experienced such a depth in my relationship with God and had to walk so closely beside him. Thailand was one of the hardest and yet most amazing times of my life" (Leigh Cumming, 23, Thailand team)

"Over the six months in Malta, I learned that God works even when we don't feel adequate and we feel we have nothing to offer him. You think you can give God so much in a 'year out' but the truth is that ultimately God will bless you and give you much more than you can ever imagine" (Catherine Crump, 18, Malta team).

"Sometimes it felt like I was going under in Zimbabwe, but God was always my life jacket" (Alex Jones, 19, Zimbabwe team).

"Being that close to the mountains of Nepal really brought home what a powerful and incredible God we have. He is greater than anything else" (Helen Schwier, 18, Nepal team).

These are plainly not the casual experiences of globetrotting young people on a subsidised jolly. They are responses to six intensive months spent at the cutting edge of mission.

Today, another 32 successful candidates like them are preparing for their Action Team year, beginning on September 1 with five weeks' intensive training.

This year's teams will spend six months working in the UK, Zimbabwe, France, Italy, Thailand, Brazil, India and Portugal.

Action Team members come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are taking a year out before or after university, others are taking time off from work; some have been Christians for years, others for just one or two years.

But there is one common thread linking all these young Christians – they want to serve God and to be changed by Him.

"Taking this year out is, to me, taking time out to allow God to work in and through me. It is time dedicated to seeking God's guidance and looking for what he wants for my life. From this year I hope to find out things about myself that I have not yet discovered, I hope that I will learn to become totally reliant on God and come to know him more deeply and I hope that I will be able to use the gifts God has given me to spread his message" (Jenny Sellick, 18, 1997/98 Italy team).

"I want to help in whatever way is necessary, giving God glory and working to the best of my ability and helping the people I meet to do the same through music, juggling, teaching, talking to them or whatever else I could offer" (Phil Brown, 18, 1997/98 Thailand team).

"I need to see some of the world in order to begin to understand peoples real needs, not just second hand on the TV or in a text book. I am

of the action

sure I will learn a lot in this year out, both about myself and about the power of God" (Sarah Wood, 18, 1997/98 India team).

"God has done so much for me that I want to let other people know how great He is and help them to know him personally. My greatest hope for the team is that we'll get to see people being changed by God through our work. I also hope to learn more about the world, about life and about myself" (Susan Tulley, 18, 1997/98 Zimbabwe team).

No matter what you're doing in your church, or how old or young you are, everyone can get involved in the work and ministry of BMS 28:19 Action Teams. You can pray for these young people who are taking up Jesus' challenge "go and make disciples of all nations." (Matt 28:19). You can go to offer encouragement when they visit your area.

And this year, you can support the BMS Project 97, 'a piece of the Action', which aims to raise money to help pay the costs incurred in sending young people overseas.

This project centres on a video which features the work of the 1996/97 Portugal Action Team; workbooks, prayer cards and posters are also available to help you raise awareness in your church and among your friends.

Take a lead from these young people. Get in on a piece of the action! ●

ACTION TEAMS KEY
From top: Jamaica Team, Malta Team, Zimbabwe Team, Nepal Team, Thailand Team, Portugal Team, and Brazil Team.

Prayer *focus*

News from BMS colleagues and partners around the world to complement the BMS Prayer Guide

Albania

In May, BMS Europe Representative John Passmore spent five days in Albania exploring the situation with BMS missionaries Gill Jones and Roger Pearce (pictured left). Despite the trauma and upheaval, they report that the church is strong and discovering a new maturity and understanding of God's spiritual gifts in their lives.

At the time of their visit, the capital Tirana was relatively quiet but it proved impossible to travel south to Vlora, where BMS had planned major hospital work. They visited the locations of other mission work to check the condition of buildings and the result of mass looting. Although personal property was largely untouched, they were dismayed to see the devastation of some buildings and projects – like Tirana University's clinic and library, built up with help from Operation Agri. The building had been looted and set on fire (pictured below left).

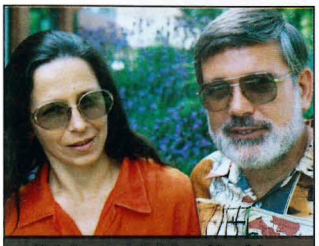
Gill says she was heartbroken at what had happened but greatly encouraged that there are still Christians there. "We went to take the gospel and the Christians there are testimony to that. They're building the church in a better way than we could do now."

The future still presents a host of challenges but BMS has started to release missionaries back into the work in Albania; Gill and Glyn Jones returned in May.

Please pray

- **for still greater love and depth of fellowship amongst Albanian Christians, some of whom are grieving the loss of friends and family members**
- **for God's peace to pervade a political situation still fraught with difficulties: while plans for elections are settled, new leaders find themselves ill-prepared for the huge responsibility of rebuilding the country**
- **for wisdom as Gill, Roger and their colleagues consider the future of the work in Albania**

AFRICA



Sylvia and Adrian Hopkins
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The civil war has caused serious problems for the CBM's River Blindness programme, with supplies of Ivermectin running low and travel hazardous.

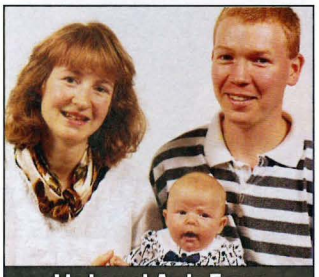
Nevertheless, Adrian and Sylvia Hopkins are making the most of every opportunity: unexpectedly stranded overnight at Zemio in the east of the country, Adrian was able to carry out two eye operations that evening - and another seven the next morning, before moving on!

Since the army mutiny last November and subsequent intervention by French troops, an amnesty has been declared for the rebels, but shooting can still be heard on the streets of Bangui.

Please pray:

- for Adrian's training courses in eye care for nurses
- for Sylvia's teaching work by correspondence
- for transport, now the Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot – who provided a vital link – is moving to Chad
- that the World Bank would agree to support CBM's work in this troubled region.

LATIN AMERICA



Linda and Andy Eaves
BRAZIL

Andy and Linda are now on home assignment, but back in Fortaleza, preaching, teaching and mending pipes were all part of Andy's daily work. He also visited and spoke at a state-run children's home, as a representative of the Rescue and Restoration project organised by Youth With A Mission.

Former street kids living in the home heard the good news of Jesus Christ and many responded to Andy's message of hope.

Elsewhere, Andy was involved in a door-to-door survey of local people's needs, part of the groundwork for a new social action charity to be set up by Fortaleza's First Baptist Church. Following a bible study in the ramshackle "train-track favela", he also explored the possibility of renting a house there as a springboard for further outreach into that community.

Please pray:

- for vulnerable children and teenagers exposed to violence on the streets of Fortaleza – that they would respond to the offer of life in Jesus
- that the planned social action programme would bear lasting fruit in the community
- for a renewal of piped water so that people are no longer forced to use old wells and contaminated ponds
- for Andy, Linda and the children coming to the end of their home assignment: for a safe journey back, and for renewed energy and vision

Gerry and Johan Myhill
BRAZIL

Electricity has arrived on the island of Ilha Rasa, bringing power, light and a complete change in the local lifestyle.

Refrigeration means fish and meat can be stored, cutting food waste which was until now unavoidable. But the advent of TV has captivated a community whose knowledge of the outside world stretched no further than the mainland port of Guaraquecaba.

For fishermen, late nights watching films mean their nets stay idle long past dawn, while for wives and children, soap operas eat up precious time.

Please pray:

- for continued growth in their church at Morretes and for extension plans
- that community relationships and values will survive the change of lifestyle

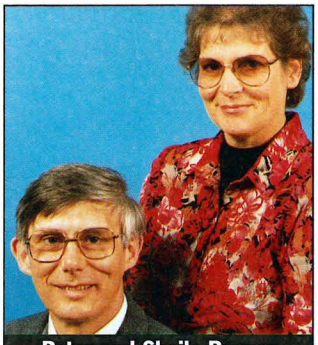
Zaire

Give thanks that Kabila's takeover of what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mobutu's exodus have taken place with a minimum of bloodshed. Seven BMS personnel are continuing with their work there: Owen and Deanna Clark, and John Mellor in Kinshasa; Pat Woolhouse, Janet Claxton, Gwen Hunter and Margot Bafende in the Lower River region. Please continue to pray for the new regime, as it tries to stand this tottering nation on its feet again.

Prayer focus

Around the world

CARIBBEAN



Peter and Sheila Brewer
TRINIDAD

Planning for probable future work in Trinidad, Peter and Sheila have visited the island's 21 Baptist Union churches and have met their pastors.

They were present at the culmination of a crusade – a service in which there were two sermons and 35 people baptised!

Baptist work in Trinidad is fragmented, and Peter and Sheila are looking to a future in which the different Baptist groups can come together for a decision in principle on a united training programme.

Please pray:

- for talks between Baptist groups in Trinidad towards increased co-operation
- for Peter and Sheila that they may receive clear guidance for the future.

ASIA

Judith and Tony Sykes
INDIA

In January Tony and Judith began their service with BMS in India. Tony is now using his civil engineering skills at the Medical College Campus in Vellore.

Within a week of their arrival work on the construction site had begun – 450 people working with a great sense of purpose. Men with their shovels moving sand, and women in saris and hard hats carrying sand and cement on their heads.

Judith has begun to help three times a week at Anbu Illam, a hostel for children with cerebral palsy.

Please pray:

- giving thanks that Tony and Judith have received a warm welcome, and that they have been in good health
- for Tony as he gets more involved at work and builds up relationships with the other engineers
- for Judith's involvement at Anbu Illam hostel. Is God leading her to a long-term commitment here?
- for opportunities for language study.

EUROPE

Sarah and Chris Mattock
SICILY

Chris and Sarah Mattock's move from Ferrara to Carlentini is quite a change for them and their children, Judith and Simon.

There's the strong Sicilian dialect to adjust to and they now live in a small flat, with no garden and no local park.

Carlentini is without a library, and education in Sicily is recognised as being poorer than in mainland Italy.

The churches they are leading look promising. Lentini Baptist Church runs a documentation centre set up in response to the murder of anti-mafia judge Falcone; on Easter Saturday, the centre's amateur theatre company put on an anti-mafia play - the first ever production to be sponsored by the local council and attended by the Mayor.

Please pray:

- for the development of youth work at Lentini Baptist Church, where there are few children and no teenagers
- for a Federation of Italian Protestant Churches plan to create a united Baptist, Waldensian and Methodist church in Catania
- for the growth of pastoral support in the Baptist Church

Correction

In our China Church Overview (May-June, Page 9), we said Nestorian monks brought Christianity to China in the year 1635. It should have read 635.

Checkout

Departures (July)
Colin and Marcia Pavitt to Brazil
Andy and Linda Eaves to Brazil
Robert and Catherine Atkins to France

Departures (August)
David and Rachel Quinney Mee to El Salvador
Peter and Margaret Goodall to Sri Lanka
Vince and Sadie MacDougall to Brazil
Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite to Brazil
Stuart and Georgie Christine to Brazil
Geoff and Chris Bland to Thailand
Phil and Rosemary Halliday to France
Wayne and Wendy Hadley to France
Neil and Ruth Abbott to France
CORRECTION: Mike and Jean Gardiner will not be going to Brazil as reported in May/Jun mh. We apologise for the error.

Arrivals (July)
Robert and Catherine Atkins from France
Chris and Alison Rudall from Nepal
Geoff and Chris Bland from Thailand
Phil and Rosemary Halliday from France
Wayne and Wendy Hadley from France
Colin and Denise Clark from Nepal
Janet Claxton from Dem. Rep. of Congo (Zaire)
Mark and Claire Ord from Italy
Neil and Ruth Abbott from France

Overseas visits:
Alistair Brown, David Martin to Canada and Brazil
Derek Rumbol to Angola
Sian Williams to Sri Lanka
David Kerrigan to Taiwan
Frederick George to South Africa and Angola

Travel Tales

A chicken and egg situation

ILLUSRATION SARAH PRENTICE

JOHN PASSMORE

John Passmore is the BMS Europe Representative and was a missionary in Bangladesh for ten years.

According to the profile of the Regional Representative for Europe in the January to April Prayer Guide, I "keep chickens as a pastime". There have been times at the lunch table in Baptist House when the topic of conversation has moved on to poultry keeping. The relative qualities of dry pellets against wet mash and incubation times have prompted comments about anoraks and train spotting! However let's start at the beginning.

In Bangladesh the night guard's duties, as well as perambulating the entire compound checking security and deterring intruders, also included striking the hour all through the night. This was done by hitting a three feet long piece of railway track, which was suspended from the goal post each evening, with a short length of reinforcing rod. On those hot, sticky nights when sleep just would not come we often counted the resulting "chimes" through the night.

This was not one of those nights. I was in a deep sleep and took a while to surface when the guard called through the window, with a sound of urgency in his voice, to come outside quickly with my torch.

This was at the time when I was still engaged in language study but breeding chicks in my spare time both as a diversion from learning more irregular verbs and as a way of introducing improved breeds to the poultry population.

It was a way of learning new vocabulary as the teacher said he had never been asked what the word for a broody hen was before! That was necessary when a colleague, returning from a visit to agricultural missionary, David Stockley, handed me a dozen eggs with a note simply saying "Find yourself a broody hen".

After finding the said hen and hatching those eggs I was offered an incubator by a Norwegian development agency. Soon there were eggs, chicks and pullets everywhere.

The incubator was in the spare bedroom and a new house was built for the rapidly growing poultry. All was not going to plan though as although the birds were growing, it did seem that numbers in one section were decreasing. On the night in question we discovered why.

Once outside in the cool dark night I was met by a little posse all anxious to explain the reason for the summons. A stick was thrust into my hand and as I had the torch, it was decided that I should go into the chicken house. The night guard had spotted a large snake disappearing through the bamboo wall.

The plan was – or at least their plan was – that I should go in armed with torch and stick, create noise to frighten the snake and drive it out. They would wait outside by the hole through which the snake had been spotted entering and as it reappeared they would deal with it. Thanks! I go inside where we know there is a cobra and you wait outside hoping it comes out through the same hole.

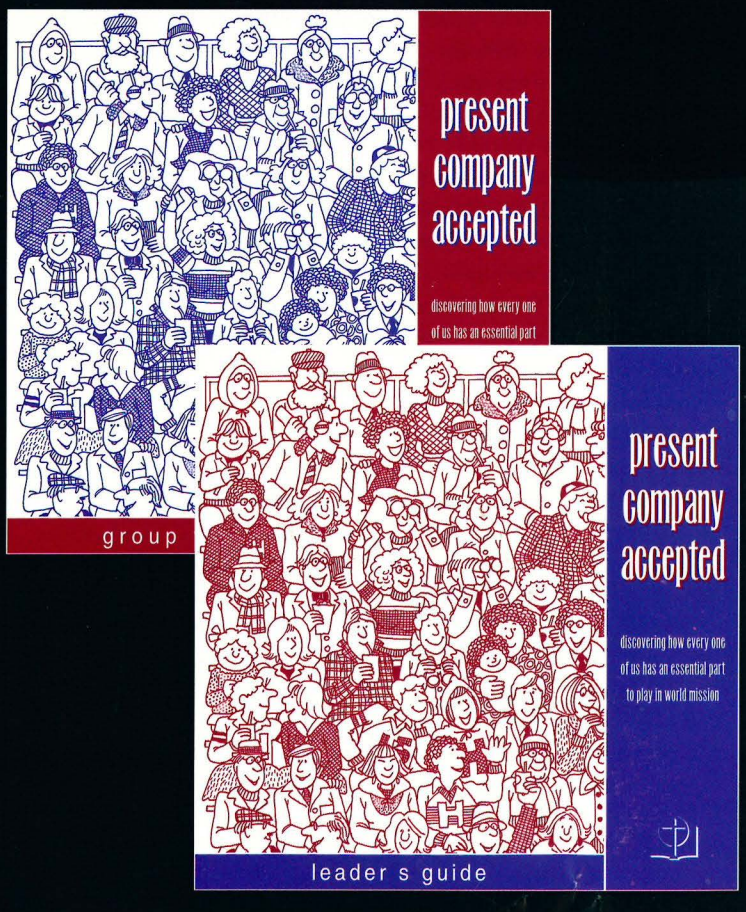
Fortunately the snake had read the script and promptly made for the exit. There was a flailing of clubs and the snake lay dead. It might just have escaped as their aim was not too good in the dark but the snake had miscalculated. Since its last visit to the chicken house the prey had grown and now with its meal swallowed it was unable to get all the way through the hole in the wall.

After checking that it really was dead, the snake was taken outside to a by now large group of onlookers and slit open. There lay the answer to the riddle of the disappearing chicks – two pullets, swallowed whole, side by side along the length of the snake. It had been trapped by its greed.

And the moral of the story is … don't admit to having a big torch!

present company accepted

discovering how every one of us has an essential part to play in world mission


present company accepted
discovering how every one of us has an essential part
group
present company accepted
discovering how every one of us has an essential part to play in world mission
leader s guide

**Yes even you,
your housegroup,
your friends,
your church fellowship.**

A resource book that's more than just a series of bible studies: there's also warm up activities, discussion points, facts and figures, and stories of what God is doing around the world. There are no long words, and we promise this isn't another boring book about world mission.

Phone Rob Vaines on 01235 512077 to receive your free sample copy of both the Leader's Guide and the Group Workbook.

Baptist Missionary Society
PO Box 49 Didcot
Oxon OX11 8XA
Registered charity no. 233782

September/October 1997

Baptist Theological
Seminary Library
Prague
Czech Republic

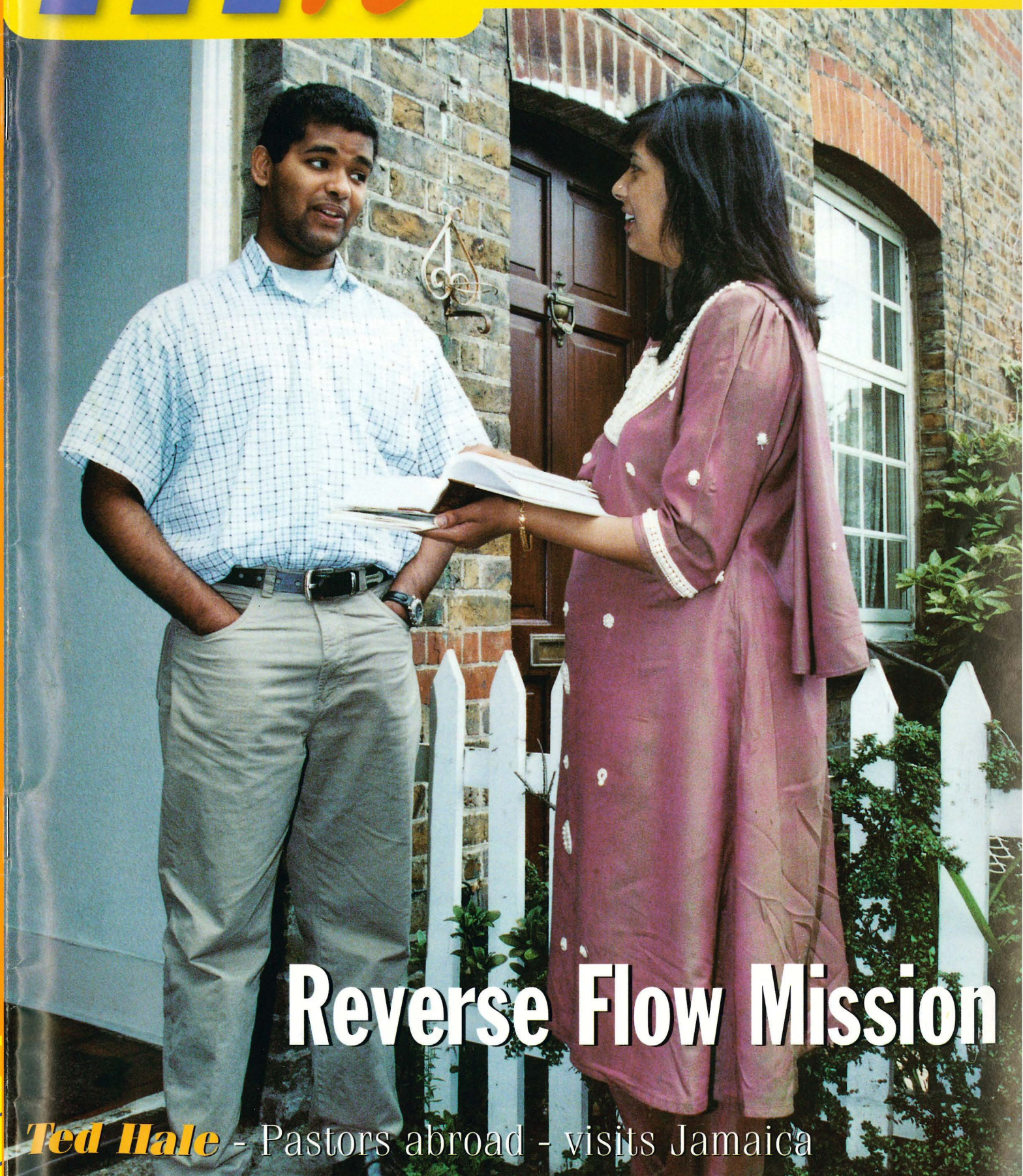
mb

News around the world

Focus on Macenta

Action teams abroad

international



Reverse Flow Mission

Ted Hale - Pastors abroad - visits Jamaica

Prayer Support for Mission

Worldwide Prayer Tape

The BMS's monthly prayer programme. Information, news, plus up to date interviews from the cutting edge of mission. Listen to it at home, in the car, on your personal stereo - or use it in your housegroup or prayer partnership. All it costs you is a postage stamp every month. The subscription to WORLDWIDE is FREE.

For more details on Worldwide, contact Becky Fisher, Audio-Visual Dept

Prayer Guide

Only available - and FREE - with your January/February, May/June, and September/October *mh*!

Now more up-to-date, and more accessible.

The Prayer Guide takes a topic or country per week, and each day gives you an opportunity to pray for BMS personnel and the challenges that confront them at the present time. Partnership bodies, UK events and retired missionaries are also remembered.

Make use of your Prayer Guide for personal prayer, and in leading prayer times in church services and meetings.

A special abridged pulpit copy of the Prayer Guide called At A Glance is also available for your church.

Prayer Letters

Support the work and ministry of specific BMS personnel by receiving their prayer letters. Use these letters, which give greater detail of situations and needs, to pray for your chosen missionaries on a regular basis.

For more details on Prayer Guide and Prayer Letters, contact Diane Hayward, Publicity Secretary
Baptist Missionary Society, PO Box 49, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8XA - Tel: 01235 512077

ISSUE - REVERSE FLOW MISSION

contents

JAN KENDALL

Yes, the *mh* editorial panel and a few missiologists have done it again - we've put God in a box for this issue and stuck a label on it: 'reverse flow mission'. And what we mean by that is when traditional 'receiving' countries become 'sending' countries in terms of missionary personnel.

It really is exciting how the Holy Spirit has envisioned people groups in specific areas to take the gospel to other people groups near and far, and what is even more exciting is that they don't need First World people to help them do it.

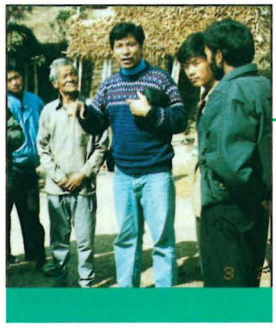
Of course, as soon as you begin to compartmentalise God you come up against the truth that God's people have been discovering for thousands of years: God's thoughts are not our thoughts; neither are his ways our ways. And he would not be God if that were not the case!

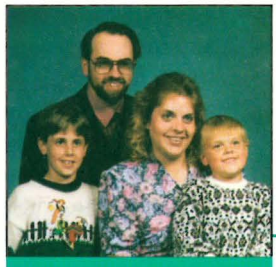
Please, Lord, carry on surprising us and doing the unthinkable amongst us!

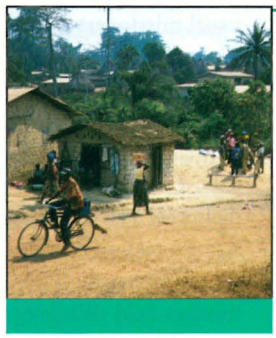
We are continuing with the popular feature 'Our Town', and this time we're visiting Macenta in Guinea, where Doctors Mark and Andrea Hotchkin are working. We had great fun researching this as Mark's photos went missing in the post and we found that Guinea did not even have a Tourist Office in the UK! But we came up trumps, as you'll see when you turn to pages 20 to 23.

This issue comes again with a BMS prayer guide to take you through to the end of the year and a Christmas catalogue, giving you lots of ideas as to how you can solve your Christmas present and card problem AND support world mission at the same time. How about giving a year's subscription to *mh* as a Christmas present? There could not be an easier way to introduce a friend to all that God is doing worldwide!

Jan







FEATURES

4 **FROM EL SALVADOR TO LONDON**
A man with a mission
Chris Pope tells the story

6 **BACK TO MY OWN PEOPLE**
An Italian in Tirana
Saverio Guarna talks about his ministry

8 **MIZO MISSIONARIES IN NEPAL**
Global relationships
Two couples from a large sending base

10 **LOVE ON THE ROAD**
Delivering aid
From Hong Kong to Albania

NEWS

12 **BMS NEWS**
14 **WORLD NEWS**
16 **WORLD MISSION LINK**

REGULARS

18 **CENTRE SPREAD**
Englishman Ian Crossley returns to the UK

20 **OUR TOWN**
Macenta, Guinea

26 **PASTORS ABROAD**
Ted Hale visits Jamaica

28 **TAKE TWO**
Mission file of facts, figures and background

30 **ACTION TEAMS**
Martin, ex Challenge UK, reflects

32 **MISSIONARY DIGEST**
Prayer points to support BMS colleagues

35 **JOHN PASSMORE**
The last word

COVER IMAGE

PHOTO: BEN PARSONS

NEXT ISSUE NOV-DEC
Health and healing
Health issues and health care around the world

CREDITS

General Director Alistair Brown

Managing Editor Richard Wells
Editor Jan Kendall

Regular Contributors Jenny Barrett, Alistair Brown, Owen Clark, Sam Gibson, Jan Kendall, John Passmore, Richard Wells.

Design Consultant Tom van Aurich
Art Editor Sarah Prentice

Director for Missionaries
Sian Williams
(for enquiries about service)

Printed by Alden Colour
Didcot, Oxfordshire

Subscription for 1997 *mh* and BMS Prayer Guide are published as a complete package. £6.00 through church *mh* distributors £7.98 by direct mail (inc p&p). Six issues of *mh* with three of BMS Prayer Guide plus free Annual Review. Overseas p&p at the rate applicable.

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the BMS

© Copyright 1997
Baptist Missionary Society

ISSN 0264-1372

Missionary Herald the magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society

Address: PO Box 49, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8XA
Telephone: 01235 512077
Fax: 01235 511265
E-Mail, Editorial: bms_media@cin.co.uk
E-Mail, Other departments: 100626.1577@compuserve.com

Registered charity number 233782

Bran is good for you!!!

FROM EL SALVADOR TO LONDON - **CHRIS POPE** MET HENRY BRAN, MAN WITH A MISSION

"Try it for two weeks and you'll notice the difference. It changed my life!" confides the businessman to his colleague. What is this wonder substance?

Bran! But while the breakfast companies compete for your money with their particular brands of bran, there is one Bran which we could all benefit from - the sort that comes in the form of Henry Bran, a missionary from El Salvador to Hackney, south east London! Yes you read that correctly. But Henry and his ministry are very different to what our usual understanding of a missionary is. So, who is he, what is he doing here, and how does he challenge our usual understanding of mission?

The first way Henry differs from a usual missionary is that he received or became aware of his "calling" after moving country. "My parents brought me here when I was seventeen to escape the political war there", he states undramatically. Looking back however, Henry definitely sees God's hand of guidance and protection at work in bringing him to the country which would become his mission field. While certainly aware of God as he grew up in El Salvador where he describes the church as his "playground", he only truly came to know Jesus when he was 14. It was this reality of knowing Jesus that stayed with him throughout two years of feeling alone until he found a sense of home at Frampton Park Baptist Church where he and his wife Claribel and their family still worship. "The thing I remember most", he says, "is that I received such a warm

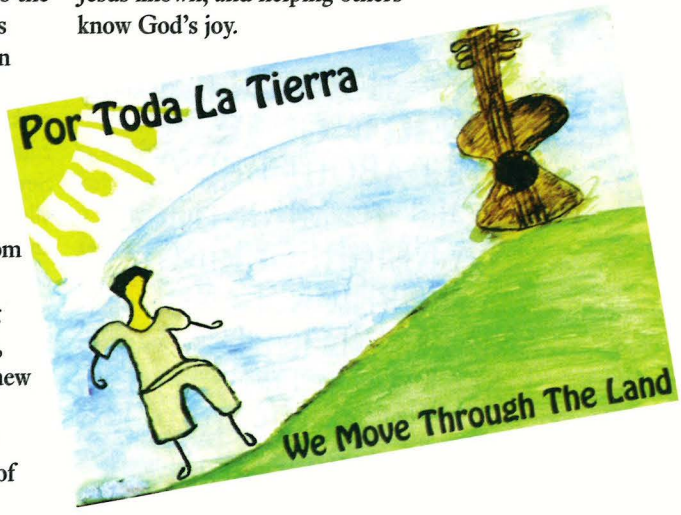
welcome, that I didn't feel like a foreigner anymore".

Although he only became aware of his calling some time after moving, from the moment he arrived in England, he was definitely a man with a mission. "I love my country, and I wanted to tell people about the suffering there so that they could try and do something about it". And carry out his mission he did - through music, song and poetry until God began to open his eyes to a far greater mission. "I was leaving people with hate. I wasn't building hope. But God began to show me that instead of focusing on El Salvador, the country, I had to start focusing on it's namesake, The Saviour!" It was at this time that Henry received his call, "The first thing God said was, "I want you to be my witness. Don't worry about it - I'll do the work." And despite concert bookings dwindling to nothing and persecution from various sources, this is what he continued to do. "My songs no longer focused on the suffering of my people. Instead they opened up the suffering of Christ and the salvation and hope which springs from that."

As if changing country and being given a new mission was not enough, Henry found himself being given a new mission field - children and young people. "Unlike El Salvador, fun for children here tends to be as a result of causing harm." Helping children discover "safe" fun is one of Henry's personal aims when working with young people, in addition to his own self-confessed capacity for fun and enjoyment. Today, Henry's main ministry is working with children aged 7-15 with an organisation called "Pathway" where he is involved in organising and running daily lunch time and after school clubs at several schools in the Hackney area. "I like seeing them smiling and enjoying themselves. I'm not asking them for a commitment, I'm helping them discover a friend!".

Henry also learns much from what the children have to teach us as well. "Children really believe. It's as simple as that. Kid's are ready to go and just do it. We're not." Smiling even wider than usual, Henry recounts the story of one little girl who when asked why she was walking down a straight pavement her eyes closed and hands opened, replied "When I do this, I feel Jesus holding my hand". After trying themselves and having felt nothing, the little girl just turned to them and said, "Ah, but have you ever given your life to Jesus? How can he hold your hand if you haven't?". "They are excellent evangelists" he beams. It also seems they are excellent prayer-warriors because Henry lists his 12 year old daughter Alicia as his principal prayer support!

In addition to his perpetual smile, Henry oozes creativity. But as with all things Henry, his creativity - be it in writing songs, poems, books, music, painting guitars or playing fund raising concerts for the South American Missionary Society with whom he has links, is solely for the two-fold purpose of making Jesus known, and helping others know God's joy.



And as ever, Henry has some unique words of advice on the whole subject of mission. "Firstly," he says, "mission can come at any time so you need to be ready; mission starts now not just at your call". "Secondly, we know we are going to meet Jesus so why do we need to worry about it in the future?".

Two weeks it took for the businessman in the advertisement to notice the difference bran had made in his life. It took less than two hours for me to see the difference Henry Bran, and Jesus at work in his life, could make to anybody. Despite my revulsion of all things Alpen, I can certainly say in all sincerity, "Yes, Bran is good for you!". ●

Chris Pope
is Youth pastor at Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church

An Italian in Tirana

I SET OUT TO FIND HOW ITALIAN **SAVERIO GUARNA** FELT ABOUT BEING SENT OUT TO MINISTER IN A NEIGHBOURING 'FOREIGN' LAND, AND FOUND INSTEAD THAT I HAD COME TO THE INTERVIEW WITH A LOT OF MISCONCEPTIONS

"So why did you and Betsy go to Albania?"

A simple question? Maybe not for a former President of the Italian Baptist Union to answer, someone who had a lot to offer to his own country, but Saverio Guarna did not hesitate.

"I was in Romania, at an EBF Council meeting, when I first heard about Albania," he said. "It was in 1991, just after Albania had started to open up. Someone gave an invitation to go there, and I felt I had to go. I felt I had to go to my own people."

It is this conviction that pervades both his and his wife Betsy's thinking, that Italians and Albanians are one people, and that in going to Albania, Saverio was going back to his own people.

Saverio grew up in a well-to-do Catholic family that expected its sons to become lawyers or doctors. He opted for law. At the age of 22, while studying at Rome University he first started to attend a Baptist church. "After one year" he said, "I had a kind of experience, a definite physical experience, and the Lord challenged me. I believe this was when I was born again. I spoke with my pastor. I was baptised and I felt called to the ministry." So he gave up the family tradition, and went to study at Ruschlikon Seminary in Switzerland. His family never forgave him.

Saverio's homeland, Italy, is a needy country spiritually speaking. It is reckoned that only 1,500 of its 33,000 communities have an evangelical witness. Seventy eight per cent of people claim allegiance to the Roman Catholic church and Protestants make up just one per cent of the population.

British and American Baptist missionaries have been involved in missionary work in Italy ever since it was unified in the 1850s. Betsy, Saverio's wife, was born in Rome, the daughter of American missionary parents.

Saverio developed his thoughts. "I grew up with the concept that Albanians were Italians" he said, "and that in going to Albania, I was going back to my own people. There are a lot of similarities between these two people."

There has been a two way exchange between the two countries for hundreds of years. It was in the latter part of the 15th century, that some 200,000 Albanians fled to Southern Italy from a Turkish invasion. They settled there, and can still be seen today living in small mountain communities, still speaking a form of Albanian, a distinct people, with their own dress, religion (Orthodox Christianity), and customs.

"Going back to Albania today" said Saverio, "is like travelling back in time to Italy in the 1940s, when I was growing up as a child. They cook like my grandmother did, on one burner. They eat the same sort of food as we did then,

things like pulses. They have strong feelings of friendship, of jealousy and loyalty. When I was a teenager, to be a friend was almost a holy thing. If you betrayed a friend, you had made an enemy for life. Marriages were arranged; girls did not go to school - they had to stay at home and sew. That's what Albania is like today.

"Albanians like Italians; they do not feel the same about any of their other neighbours, who have constantly threatened them and nibbled away at their borders. They don't even complain about the time, under the Fascist regime, when the Italians occupied Albania, because that was the time they got their bridges and the main buildings were put up in Tirana. It was a time of prosperity."

Now Saverio and Betsy have returned to Tirana after a long period of absence, following their evacuation in March. They realise they are going into a situation which has changed - especially in regard to missionary work. The ideas, expectations and perspectives with which they worked in the last three years have been tested by a church which has managed to continue its ministry without them. Therefore they have gone back in a different position to serve under the leadership of the church. ●

Jan Kendall is editor of *mh*

On the receiving end

JOHN TREHARNE TELLS HOW HE IS GETTING USED TO WALES RECEIVING MISSIONARY PERSONNEL FROM OVERSEAS

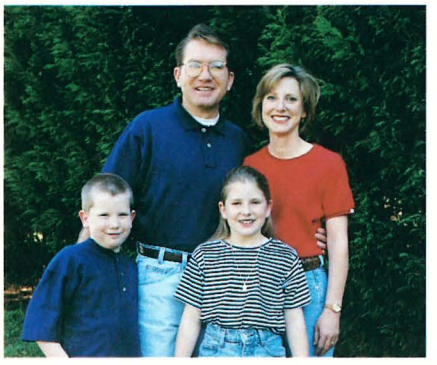
Some would say that it's easier to give than to receive, and that it's easier to send than to receive missionaries. However, one of the results of a church survey, "The challenge to change", taken this spring, showed that Wales is a missionary field, whether we like it or not. The whole spectrum of church-goers represents nine per cent of the population.

We must thank the Lord that his church in other countries is stronger at the moment and that there are possibilities of partnership in mission. The Baptist Union of Wales has been developing links with the Southern Baptist Convention of the USA for some years with journeymen coming over to

help some of the English-speaking churches. This has developed later to include longer-term missionaries involved in church-planting and administrative/pastoral work. The partnership took another step forward in 1996 with the arrival of a missionary youth-worker and church-adviser, coming to work with Welsh-speaking churches.

The youth worker, Mickey Ary, came with his wife Ronda and children Micah and Chase. The church-adviser is John Robinson.

They came to the Caernarfon area initially with different intentions: Mickey with a view to working with four churches in the area and John coming to learn the language and moving to the Swansea area of South Wales to work out of the Union offices.



The local Arfon Association did not feel that they could support the project, and are still actively seeking a Welsh-speaking youth-worker for the North Wales associations. They were concerned about the possible erosive influence of foreign workers on culture and language in a country which is fighting that very stiff battle.

Two pastors in the area felt that there was such a dire need of evangelisation among youth, that any help which might be offered should be accepted, but they also made a stipulation that learning the language was a priority.

The workers came and set out to study and learn the language. They have succeeded to differing degrees because of differing linguistic capabilities and confidence, but all have worked hard at it. There is an added problem in Wales, in that everyone can speak English, though it may be their second language. That means that the process of learning is slower, because it is not absolutely necessary for everyday life.

On top of that, there was quite a culture shock in store for the workers regarding church-life. Our churches are pretty traditional and formal, with a predominantly elderly congregation, and everything going on in a foreign language.

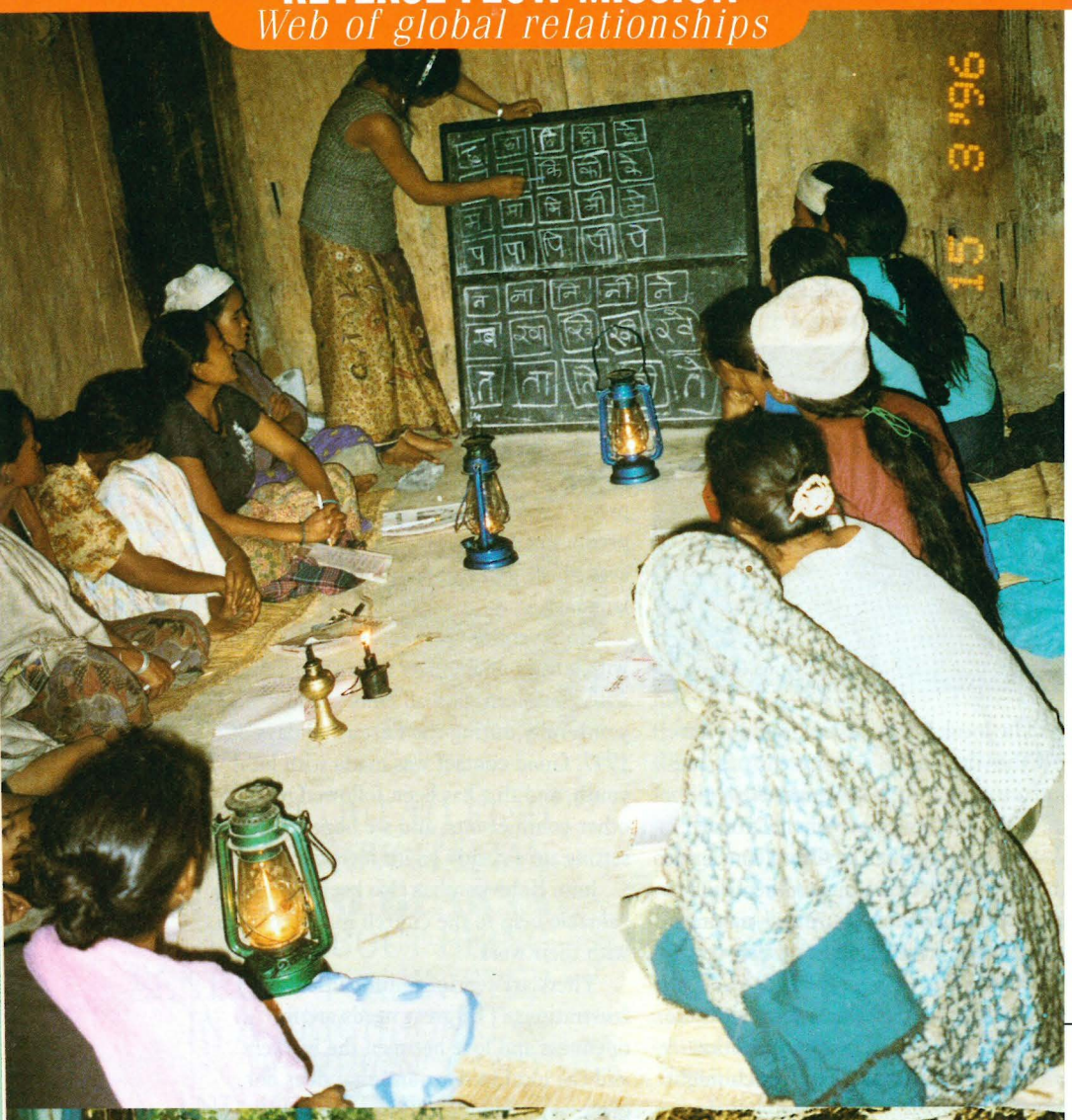
However, the work has started slowly with a team of Baptists coming to help with American football clinics, and a youth rally during the Easter holidays of 1997. Good contact was made with local youth, and this has been followed up with other youth events, and we hope to be setting up a steady youth meeting shortly.

John Robinson has also been giving valuable help to the church in Caernarfon with their work.

There are tensions, difficulties and frustrations. The great needs are for openness and love between the workers and the local leaders, and that does not come without much effort on both sides. Then, adaptability is essential, and once again this is needed with the workers and the churches.

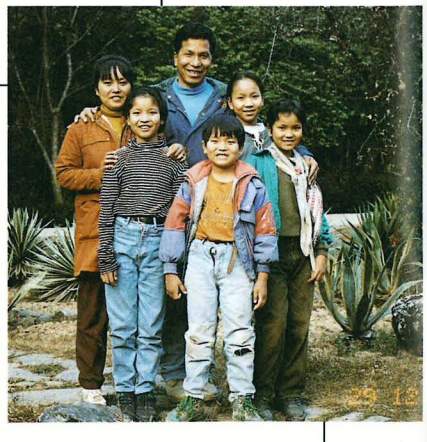
However, partnership in mission has been a very enriching process for me as a pastor and leader in the local situation. We continue praying that the Lord will enable us to be mission-orientated, and sow and reap fruit in his kingdom. ●

John Treharne is minister of Caersalem Baptist Church, Caernarfon and Calfaria Baptist Church, Penygroes.



DAVID KERRIGAN TALKS ABOUT TWO BMS COUPLES YOU WON'T HAVE MET ON HOME ASSIGNMENT

The complex Web



Many years ago, Copernicus caused a lot of trouble when he suggested that the world may not be the centre of our solar system. Those who found it hardest to forgive him for shattering their comfortable worldview were the leaders of the Christian Church!

In recent years, there has been something of a Copernican revolution in our understanding of mission. For generations, we have thought of mission as a venture which radiated out from our lands, so we spoke in terms of sending (people from here), of going (from here), teaching and baptising (the people over there). These activities are just as much a part of mission today, but were things ever really that simple? Well, they certainly aren't today! Today's mission canvas is not a series of lines radiating out from the traditional old world, but a complex web of relationships which together represent the whole church worldwide simultaneously fulfilling the commission to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Ringa and Madiki Pachuau hail from Mizoram in north east India. With their four children, Jennifer, Kim-Kim, Te-Te and Zuala, they have been a part of the BMS family for some years now. Through our partnership with the Baptist Church of Mizoram, who themselves have several hundred Mizo people working throughout India in various capacities, we have been able to help them further their work in Nepal, whilst they help us to pursue our commitment to the people of Nepal. Their base is in Kathmandu where Ringa has been working with the National Churches Fellowship (NCF), using his teaching skills in the field of Non-formal Education. (NFE). In many cases NFE begins with literacy classes in remote villages where the majority of the population, and often all the women, have not learnt to read or write. From a foundation of basic literacy, village committees continue to work together and address issues such as health and sanitation, women's rights, and the importance of schooling for their children.

The Bible speaks of the beauty of "the feet of those who bring good news" and in a land where walking for two or three days is required to reach some villages, the "good news" is indeed brought in by foot. Ringa tells of a visit last year,

"That evening I shared the gospel with the church members in the Nepali language for more than 30 minutes. After the sharing one Nepali boy came out and said he had decided to accept Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord. He was inducted into the church by an elder. This was in the eastern region of Nepal".

Our second Mizoram family are Tlana and Madini Hnamler, engineer and teacher respectively. Tlana spent his first period in Nepal constructing a suspension bridge across a river which had claimed many lives in the years gone by. More recently he has been involved in other construction work, churches and training centres, but through it all there shines a love for the Lord and the people of Nepal. Last year their first child died within hours of the birth, and now they are expecting again in November of this year.

What difference does it make having as part of our mission family, those from other nations? Firstly, it reminds us that mission today is not uni-directional. We have as much to learn as we will ever have to share. This is something we often say, but living and working alongside colleagues whose background and experiences are so different to ours is a very enriching experience.

Secondly, in a continent like Asia where so often it is hard to see progress in our work, the presence of Mizoram missionaries alongside reminds us that there are places where the gospel has really taken hold and brought about unimaginable change. The Baptist Church of Mizoram's own publicity material tells of how in less than a century, the gospel was brought to Mizoram by BMS missionaries and others, to a people who were then headhunters, but now as many as 90 per cent of the people are committed Christians, and mission is at the very heart of the church's life.

Thirdly, working alongside our Mizoram friends is to catch something of a very uncomplicated, thoroughly refreshing, absolutely genuine love of Jesus which shines through their daily lives. To spend time in their company, in their homes and in the midst of their life together is to experience the beauty of the diverse, multicultural family that is the Church of Christ. ●

David Kerrigan is BMS Regional Representative for Asia, with special responsibility for Nepal, Thailand and Indonesia.

Ringa and Madiki Pachuau

Tlana and Madini Hnamler

Love on the road

ONE MAN TURNS HIS LIFE AROUND - AND HEADS FOR ALBANIA. **JENNY BARRETT** TELLS THE STORY

Christmas 1994: 3,000 ft up a mountain, three miles from the nearest house. As their breath turns to ice in the sub zero temperatures, three lonely figures struggle to restart the engine . . .

Mr Rolls Royce and his companions slept in the lorry that night. Quite a change for the man who, some twenty years earlier, had been earning his nickname importing luxury cars to Hong Kong. But in 1988, a company reorganisation had brought to an abrupt end his time abroad, his lavish lifestyle - and his marriage.

But the biggest change was becoming a Christian, thanks to the Alpha course at his local church, Holy Trinity Brompton. Instead of feathering his own nest, Chris Blake began to use his energy and expertise to help others. As part of a church group, he made a series of trips delivering aid to Romania. Then, in December 91, the focus shifted.

An item on the evening TV news featured two Albanian babies, forced to share the same hospital incubator. Convinced God wanted him to act, Chris began to make enquiries, but it was at a Rotary lunch that, out of the blue, he was approached for help and advice on sending supplies to - Albania.

The Albania Aid Appeal (AAA) now takes up all Chris's time. With spontaneous offers of money, goods and help coming in thick and fast, deliveries by articulated truck are this year up to one a month. Artificial limbs, wheelchairs and medicines for hospitals, food, clothing and stationery for schools and churches - Chris's cargo has even included Land Rovers and a much needed tractor. Thanks to AAA, an orphanage has been replumbed, while another building project needing windows got a full 2.2 km of wood, 2.2 km of battening, and reams of plastic sheeting.

But every journey has its dangers, not least the unpredictability of the young men hanging around at makeshift roadblocks, showing off their rifles. Once, when an angry mob gathered to threaten him as he unloaded supplies in a town square, all Chris could do was take a deep breath, walk slowly and calmly back to his truck (quietly singing the Lord's Prayer as he went), get in and drive away - knowing all the while that their eyes and guns were fixed on him.

To stop on the road is to invite the attention of bandit gangs. But contaminated fuel makes mechanical breakdown a regular hazard - and Chris is no mechanic! If he waits long enough, help of a sort will eventually appear on the deserted road and, some way is always found to get the engine going again . . .

In October 1995, Chris himself went in for a major service: diagnosed with bowel cancer, he underwent extensive surgery and six months of chemotherapy treatment. But the loading and shipping went on. By the grace of God, a man who once took out a $750,000 life insurance policy in case of his own suicide now lives every day to the full for the people of Albania. ●

Mike Pilavachi

Go!

Before his ascension, Jesus said to his disciples "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore into all the world and make disciples of every nation, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

I have recently read through the Acts of the Apostles. Whilst reading, I was struck by the profound differences between the life of the early Church and the state of my church. "Never a dull moment" would seem a good catchphrase to describe the story of the first believers. What is the difference between then and now, and why?

What hit me most in Acts was the fact that the disciples did things. They went. They acted. It has been said that the Acts of the Apostles should have been called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. I disagree. Smith Wigglesworth said the Acts of the Apostles was given its name because the apostles acted! Jesus said "Go" and so they went. It was that simple.

Today, many Christians are rightly praying and fasting for revival. A number have travelled to various "revival centres" such as Toronto in Canada, Pensacola in Florida and Sunderland here in the UK. In many ways this is understandable. Numerous seekers after God will travel to wherever they believe a more intimate and powerful encounter with Him can be found. However, let us not kid ourselves. Revival will not come when we go across the ocean to receive a blessing but when we go across the street to be a blessing. We are the answer to our own prayers. Every one of us has been commanded to "Go". Not to go to conferences or rallies on "going", not to go to prayer meetings on "going", not to read books on "going", but to actually go. Go to where the non-Christians are.

In an age when we see increasing numbers of missionaries coming to our own nation, we need to discover the missionary zeal of the early Church. We need to ask ourselves what part of the word "go" do we have a problem with?

There are many different ways in which we can go. We need to discover what particular form of ministry we are called to. One thing is clear from scripture: we are all called to do something. You cannot be a Christian and be called to nothing, it is not an option. The biblical way to seek and have our needs met is to seek and meet the needs of others.

"Give and it will be given to you, pressed down, shaken together, running over, it will be poured into your lap." The first Christians believed this and acted on it. Will we?

Mike Pilavachi heads up the Soul Survivor team and pastors a congregation in Watford specially aimed at reaching young people

Project 96 Update

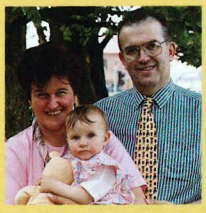
ARISE AND BUILD!

Raising money for church planting and evangelism in Zimbabwe.

As at 30 April 1997, the total raised was £18,855.21

First missionaries leave for Portugal

BMS personnel Kevin and Linda Donaghy, with infant Anna, have left the UK to begin a new phase of ministry in Portugal. Their



arrival cements the partnership agreement with the Portuguese Baptist Convention drawn up in 1993 - they are the first BMS missionaries to work in this country.

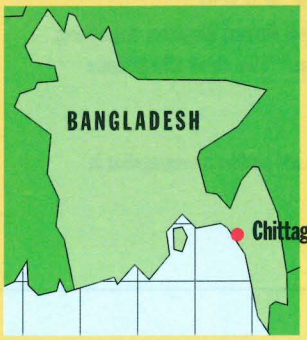
Portugal is a nation of ten million people, 56 Baptist churches, 46 Baptist ministers, and a huge growth in cults such as JWs and Mormons.

Kevin and Linda, who previously worked with BMS in Brazil, will spend their first six months language training in Lisbon, and then will be seeking a church planting situation.

Help for Bangladesh

The BMS Relief Fund has sent £5,000 to help 550 families whose homes and livelihoods were hit by a hurricane earlier this year. The effects of the hurricane were mainly felt in the Chittagong area of Bangladesh, affecting the tribal church people of the Bandarban, Nanier Char, Rangamati and Pankho areas. The 550 families had the roofs of their houses blown off, and orchards used for growing cashew nuts, papayas, pineapples and jack fruits were flattened and uprooted. Forty churches were also devastated, and roofs and windows at Chandraghona Hospital were destroyed.

The money has been used to buy goods to help with immediate relief, such as dry food, rice, candles, clothes and seedlings.



News

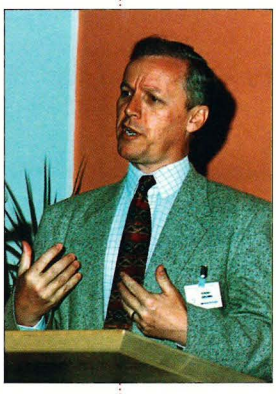
General Committee Feedback

BMS JOINS JUBILEE 2000

BMS General Committee has voted to join Jubilee 2000, the organisation campaigning for the cancellation of world debt of the poorest countries by the year 2000. The recommendation brought to General Committee by BMS's Justice and Peace Advisory Group, will involve members in signing what is hoped will be the largest petition in the world - with 17 million signatures. (At present the record stands at 13 million signatures for a petition signed in Korea.)

A representative from Jubilee 2000 will be invited to address the BMS October 1997 General Committee.

NEW YOUTH CONSULTATION



Proposals for a national consultation on mission for young people have been drawn up by BMS General Director Alistair Brown. Together with BMS, about 200 young people aged 16 to 35 from all parts of Britain will explore:

- concepts of mission
- ways of reaching the world for Christ
- what a mission agency in the 21st century should be like
- how BMS and young people in churches can work together.

The consultation will help construct a vision for how mission will be effected in the years to come, rather than be a "BMS preach". It will probably take place in a weekend conference in 1998 or 1999.

The concept will involve a whole generation in mission, who might otherwise miss out. It will also help to build a wider support base for BMS and mission awareness amongst young people.

GENERAL COMMITTEE REORGANISATION DEFERRED

More time is needed for BMS General Committee to decide its future structure. It had originally been hoped to bring proposals for changing the size and frequency of General Committee meetings to the June meeting, but discussions between BMS and the Charity Commission had been inconclusive and more time was needed before a definite recommendation could be brought.

The proposals include reducing the size of its membership from 204 to 118 and meeting twice a year instead of three times, to allow more time for a variety of activities and to save on costs.

News in Brief

Action Team Evening - General Committee will never be the same again!

When Jimmy Nhatarikwa, member of the UK Action Team, started the evening with a very loud, "Give us a J; give us an E; give us an S", those gathered at General Committee knew missionary events would never be the same again.

It was a time of culture shock - not for the Actions Teams, recently returned from their six months overseas and two months touring the UK - but for those gathered at Leamington Spa Baptist Church, who had come to the evening fresh from grappling with policy issues and directors' reports.

All eight Action Teams were let loose at General Committee, assaulting their audience with a cacophony of noise. This was the first time ever that they had had a chance to tell BMS's governing body what Action Teams were all about. They did this through drama, songs, multi media, and a fashion show in which they involved members of the audience.

It was a chance for Jo Chidgey (Jamaica Team) to tell of a Rastafarian young man with a criminal record she had met in Jamaica, how she had prayed with him and sent him a bible. It was a chance for Cath Ley (Brazil Team) to tell how after doing door to door evangelism work, the church they had been inviting people to was packed. "All they needed was an invitation" she said, "and they came along." And it was a chance for Cath Crump (Malta Team) to tell of Michael, a Roman Catholic who asked "How can I become a Christian?" After she prayed with him, he committed his life to Christ. The Team have now heard that his mother has become a Christian also.

Several young people testified of a career change as a result of their year out. Ruth Bidnell (Jamaica Team) said "I enjoyed teaching so much while I was in Jamaica that I am now going to take up teaching after university". Leigh Cumming (Thailand Team), already qualified in social work, told how she now wants to work with AIDS patients and terminally ill people following her experience in hospices and with AIDS patients in Thailand.

The evening was organised by outgoing Youth and Children's Co-ordinator, Phil Marsden.

The whole evening was a fitting tribute to Phil, who has now left BMS to take up a job as Youth Co-ordinator at Queen's Park Baptist Church, Glasgow.

Baptist House News

Goodbye Sian Williams

Sian left BMS in August after 12 years with the Society. She began work at BMS in 1985 as Promotion Assistant in what was then the Promotion department, where she wrote LOOK magazine. Sian became Junior Education Secretary, and then in 1989 Promotion Co-ordinator; and it was during this time that new initiatives such as the Pimu Plan for young people, the 28:19 Tour, and the 28:19 Action Team programme were unwrapped. Latterly, as Director for Missionaries, Sian introduced more emphasis on pastoral care, and inaugurated the Missionaries Allowances Working Group.

Sian is now embarking upon a new phase of ministry.

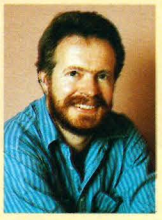
Andy Wilson

Barnabas Project Co-ordinator Andy Wilson left BMS at the end of July. Andy has been responsible for getting this new scheme off the ground. The Barnabas Project enables volunteers of all ages to work overseas for anything from three months to two years in a project or task needed by a partner body. Previously Andy and his wife Jenny, who is a doctor, had served in Cameroon for two years with BMS. For the time being Andy has returned to his former occupation: repairing and restoring cars.

Anthony Viney

Graphic designer Anthony Viney has left BMS after a period of seven years. Anthony was responsible for half the design output in this time: anything from posters, leaflets, booklets, projects, mugs, the BMS web site, to all *mh* design. He is now progressing his career with a publishing company.

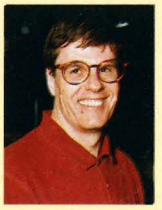
Welcome New Co-ordinator Manager



Phil Hindle, currently the BMS Co-ordinator for South and South-West England, has been appointed the new Co-ordinator Manager, with effect from 1 October 1997, following Revd Derek Mucklow's retirement. Phil joined the team of BMS Co-ordinators in January 1996, having previously worked as a Corporate Product manager with AT&T, BCS-E based in Redditch.

Born in Africa, Phil was first involved with BMS as far back as 1971 when he became a Christian at one of their summer schools.

Andy Smith



Andy has continued to astound everyone with the speed of his recovery. He is now back in the Audio-Visual section of the Department for Constituency Support on a part-time basis.

Thank you for your prayers, and please keep praying!

BMS news

Copies of the BMS Annual Report and Accounts 1996 are available.
For your free copy write to Rob Varnes, BMS, Didcot, or telephone him on 01235 512077.

News

Honduras

Plans by local businessmen, supported by the Catholic hierarchy, to build a huge statue of Christ on a hill overlooking Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, have provoked protests from local evangelical leaders. The evangelical leaders are protesting because the government has promised to contribute $27,000 towards the cost. The church leaders say they do not object to the statue, but oppose the government's use of public funds for religious purposes. (LAP/ENIB)

East Timor

Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo of East Timor has called on the world's churches to campaign on behalf of the East Timorese, who, he said, continued to be denied basic human rights following Indonesia's occupation of the eastern end of the Timor island. The bishop said "Every day young people are imprisoned and tortured, causing physical and psychological suffering." (ENIB)

Zambia

A senior Roman Catholic priest in Zambia has warned that, unless a solution is found to poverty across his country, there is a risk of turmoil similar to that experienced in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). He spoke of an increase in violent crime in Zambia and said it was an indication of worse political and social strife to come if nothing was done to reduce poverty. (ENIB)

Iraq

The medical system in Iraq has been devastated by the international embargo imposed against the country in 1990, according to a team of church-related health specialists led by James Jennings, a Southern Baptist, who visited Iraq earlier this year. Iraq had previously had a very good health system, but it had now deteriorated, and was worse than many developing countries. According to a UNICEF survey 27.5 per cent of children under five in Iraq are chronically malnourished. (ENIB)

South Africa

The Salvation Army in South Africa has admitted to the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that it kept quiet about human rights abuses during the apartheid era. "With people of all kinds of political persuasion in our ranks, we chose to remain silent, a sin of omission, which we deeply regret", the submission said. (ENIB)

News in Brief

Poverty Increasing in Central America

A public opinion survey, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has revealed widespread disenchantment with politics and government, discontent with economic conditions, and little hope for future prospects.
The poll was conducted in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama and also showed widespread alarm over increasing poverty, crime, drug trafficking and official corruption. The survey, conducted by a Costa Rican firm, interviewed 1,000 adults in each country.
More than 60 per cent in every country, and ranging as high as 90 per cent in Honduras, said that poverty had increased in their country.
Carlos Sojo, a researcher for the Latin American Social Science Faculty, said that the results of the poll square with increasing levels of social risk and marginalisation in the region. He also pointed to the case of El Salvador, which has experienced five straight years of robust economic growth, but has not produced a single increase in real wages in that time.
The discontent in Central America is all the more alarming as it is now a region at peace, with democratic governments in place. (LAP)

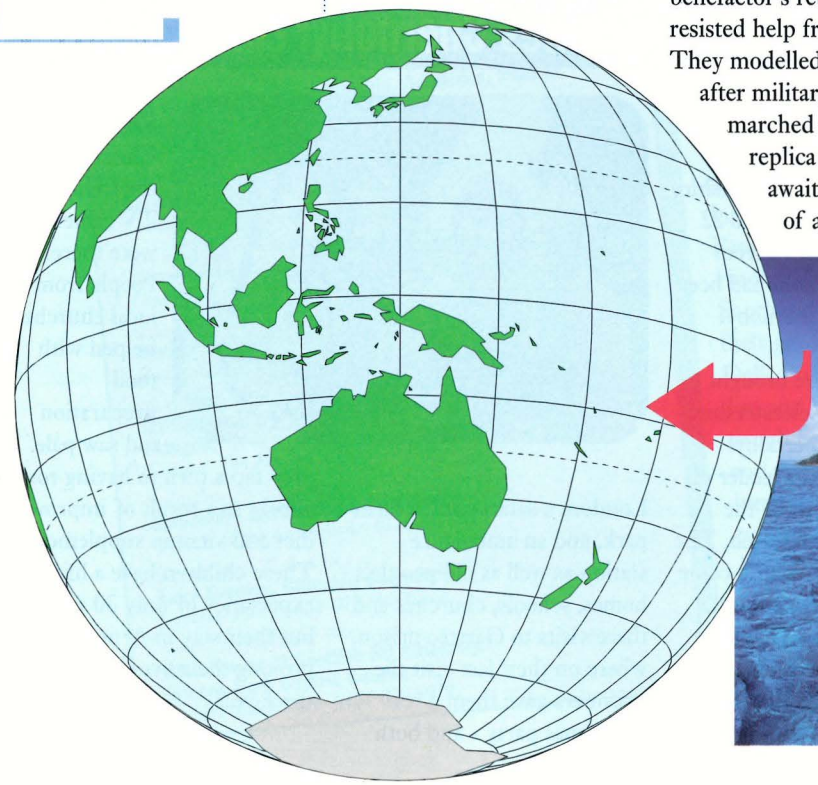
Zimbabwe Churches: raising awareness

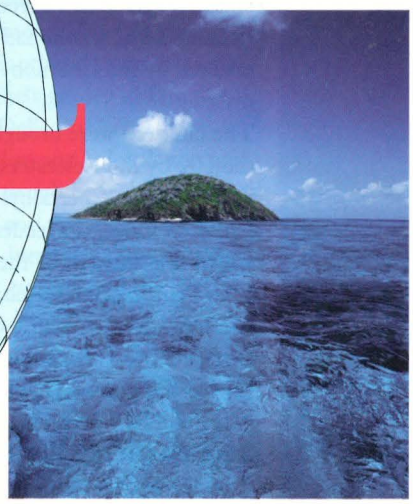
Churches in Zimbabwe, concerned about the high rate of HIV/AIDS infection, are campaigning to raise awareness among young people about the virus.
Zimbabwe is one of the African countries worst affected by HIV/AIDS. Up to 50 per cent of some age groups are HIV-positive, and statistics indicate there are 500 AIDS-related deaths every week in Zimbabwe.
In June the United Methodist Church organised a march through the streets of Harare, the capital, with banners carrying messages informing the younger generations of the

prevalence of AIDS. "No Premarital Sex, Turn to Jesus", was the message on some of the banners.
Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT) is a Christian organisation encouraging abstinence outside marriage, and faithfulness within it. It also supports and co-operates with other groups involved in community-based care for people affected by the virus.
Churches are also playing a major role caring for people with AIDS. Churches run most of the orphanages and hospices caring for people who have had the virus, or have had their families destroyed by it.
A recent study found that in the rural areas of Zimbabwe as many as 50 per cent of the 15 to 50 age group were HIV-positive. Within the next decade, life expectancy in Zimbabwe is expected to drop from the current level of 55.3 to 30.4 years for males, and from 58.6 to 31.7 years for females. Other figures show that one in ten of Zimbabwe's 11.5 million people is HIV-positive. (ENIB)

Pacific Island cult's prophecy opens door to the gospel

A missionary has unwittingly fulfilled a strange prophecy, and has put an end to a 50 year wait for members of a bizarre cult on the island of Tanna - one of the remote Vanuatu islands in the South Pacific.
John Rush, the director of the Pacific Ruby, a YWAM ship, was hailed by the people of Tanna as John Frum - the benefactor they had been waiting for since the end of the Second World War. Frum had been an American serviceman, who had left the area at the end of the war, promising to return with supplies, and to tell them more about God.
Up to 15,000 people were part of the John Frum group, who had built landing strips and docks for the anticipated reappearance. Fearing it would impede their benefactor's return they resisted help from outsiders. They modelled their villages after military bases and marched with bamboo replica rifles as they awaited the arrival of a white ship.





Rush made two trips to the island; he addressed villagers, and told them: "We cannot put our hope in America . . . we have learned to put our hope and trust in Jesus Christ. He is the only answer to our problems."
Since then local Christians on the island have been able to follow up those first contacts. Rush believes that the John Frum prophecy was used by God to open hearts to the Christian message.
(YWAM News)

Alistair Brown

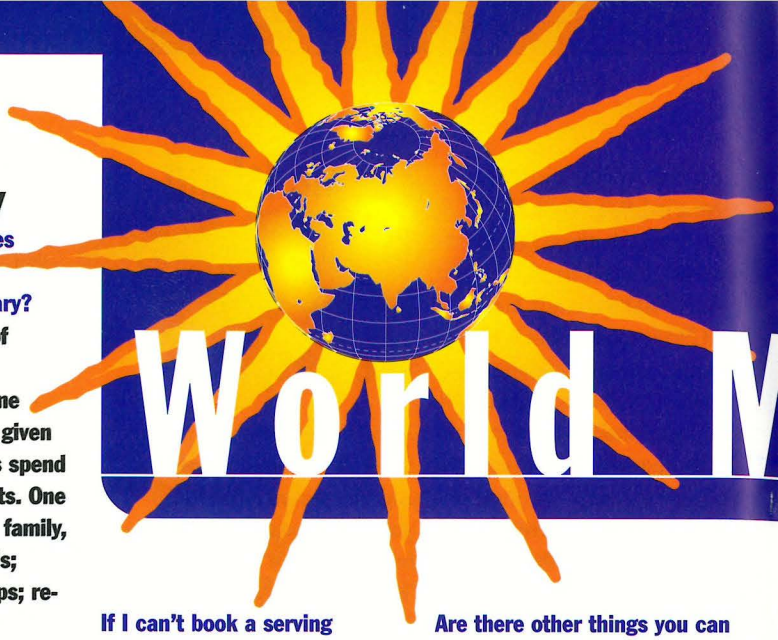
Suffer the little children

I don't know the name for the spinning machine in the picture, with its brightly coloured bobbins of thread. But I do know the Indian child working it is only about ten years of age.

That little girl was no prisoner, but the UN estimates that 250 million children are being forced to work for their keep. Children as young as three are reported in factories producing matches and fireworks. In agriculture, children mix, load and apply highly toxic pesticides. In ceramics factories, children carry molten loads of glass, working in temperatures up to 45°C in noise levels as high as 100 decibels.

Mission includes speaking for the voiceless and acting for the powerless. We pray for God's rule on earth as it is in heaven. That means tackling evils like these, helping youngsters out of real slavery. Freedom, love and hope are gifts God meant all his children to have.

WORLD news



It's September, the beginning of the church year in a lot of places. Many people are planning programmes taking them over the next few months. Is world mission there? Has it been included in the church diary, or the Women's meeting programme or the Young People's events?

Having ascertained world mission is on the programme, what do you do next?

Every month the World Mission Link postbag receives requests for speakers - Link-Up visits, BMS weekends, Association events, Mission Sundays, mid-week meetings, youth meetings, women's meetings, and conferences.

We try to fulfil all requests BUT it does help if you follow these simple guidelines:

- **Always contact us at least three months before the event; six months before is even better - BMS speakers are busy people with full diaries.**
- **Check that you are contacting the right person. World Mission Link has three parts - Link-Up, Mission Education meetings, and Teams. While Link-Up bookings should come to the World Mission Link Organiser at Didcot all other requests should go first to the BMS Co-ordinator for your area (see panel).**
- **Give as many details as possible - date and time obviously but also the type of meeting, whether you have a special theme. If you want someone for an Asian evening and we book someone with experience in Brazil disappointment will follow!**

BMS Co-ordinators

Derek Clark - Scotland - 0141 775 1201

Jim Clarke - Central & Eastern England - 01353 778984

Phil Hindle - South & South West England - 01823 698977

Gareth Hutchinson - South Wales - 01792 360909

Theo Lambourne - Midlands - 0116 271 3633

Cath Mawson - North England - 01274 487341

Derek Mucklow - London & South East - 0181 393 6017 (until end Sept)

Delyth Wyn Davies - North & Central Wales - 01766 512957

Dear Audrey

If I follow your guidelines will I always be able to book a serving missionary?

With the exception of missionaries working in Western Europe, all Home Assignments (the name given to the time missionaries spend in the UK) have two parts. One part is spent being with family, home church and friends; having medical check-ups; re-charging the batteries physically, mentally and emotionally. This part of the Home Assignment occupies the first and last month of the time in the UK. The other part of Home Assignment is spent working and being in the churches, and involves Link-Up visits, conferences, retreats, and sometimes further training. Fitting all these requests and needs into the time available means that for most missionaries their time in this country is so fully booked that even arranging one visit to a non-Link-Up church is not possible.

If I can't book a serving missionary who can I book?

Members of BMS staff at Didcot, people on the BMS Speakers List, BMS Scholarship Holders studying in this country - people who are committed to world mission, are up-to-date on the work of BMS and can often speak from the experience of having lived and worked overseas. Where we cannot provide a serving missionary we can, and do, provide speakers with a depth and range of experience, people who will help your group or church in its task of supporting world mission.

Are there other things you can provide to help us get the church involved in world mission?

Yes. Browse through the BMS Resource Catalogue - you'll find videos, slides, cassettes, information sheets, materials for children, books and ideas for meetings, and a great deal more. All you have to do is write to or telephone Didcot and ask to speak to Rob Vaines, Resources Assistant. And, if you can't find your Resource Catalogue - give us a ring and we'll see you get a new one.

Arnesby welcomes Chernobyl children

The Christian Conference Centre attached to Arnesby Baptist Church, Leicestershire was home for a month to 22 children aged 8 to 14 from Belarus, all of whom had been affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

The children were brought to the UK by the Leicestershire-based charity 'Chernobyl Children Care', the leader of which is a member of the Elim Pentecostal Church. The children, most of whom come from a church background, started their day with a bible study and Christian videos in Russian and English.

They enjoyed outings to London, a safari park, a farm park, and an ambulance station as well as old people's homes, schools, churches and three visits to Gartree prison, where on their last visit the prisoners gave them a real Christmas party - and both Father Christmas and the Central TV cameras were there! People from local churches helped with food preparation and saw pale, grey faces turn to having rosy cheeks as a result of improved diet and vitamin supplements. These children have a life expectancy of only 30 years, but their stay in Arnesby will prolong their lives by two or three years.

Inspiration, motivation, ideas, news on world mission for churches

ission Link

Dates for your Diary

Events and Meetings

Tuesday - Friday 9 - 12 September
Wales WMA Conference, Aberystwyth
Contact Delyth Wyn Davies 01766 512957

Tuesday 16 September
Missionary Secretaries Workshop, Alperton Baptist Church
Contact Veronica Campbell 0181 450 3516

Wednesday - Thursday 17-18 September
Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire WMA annual meetings
Contact Mavis Gabriel 01597 824598 - Radnorshire
Barbara Powell 01696 412452 - Montgomeryshire

Sunday 28 September
Kent Baptist Association BMS Presentation
Contact Graham Thomson 01303 252916

Tuesday 30 September
Edinburgh and Lothians Baptist Missionary Auxiliary - church representatives meeting, Morningside Baptist Church
Contact John Barclay 0131 229 3084

Wednesday 1 October
Prayer Concert, Immanuel Baptist Church, Southsea
Contact Leslie Gregory 01705 257305

Wednesday 1 October
West Glamorgan Welsh Association WMA meeting, Bridgend
Contact Avril Jones 01656 734086

Wednesday 1 October
BMS Women's Prayer Fellowship, Adelaides, Bath St, Glasgow
Contact Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Saturday 4 October
Cardiff Auxiliary BMS meeting, Barry
Contact Beryl Davies 01222 756426

Saturday 4 October
Womens Lunch, Adelaides, Bath St, Glasgow
Contact Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Saturday - Sunday 4-5 October
Burnley District BMS Weekend
Contact Hilda Pate 01282 774025

Monday 13 October
BMS Women's Missionary Fellowship, Adelaides, Bath St, Glasgow
Contact Jan Watson 0141 882 1201

Saturday 25 October
Shropshire BMS Autumn Conference
Contact Theo Lambourne 0116 2713633

Wednesday 29 October
Zaire Evening, Chipping Campden
Contact Phil Hindle 01823 698977

Friday 31 October
BMS Dinner at Scottish BU Assembly, Queens Park Baptist Church
Tickets Ellen Robb 0141 639 8919

BMS Co-ordinator opens garden to the public

Jim Clarke, BMS Co-ordinator for Central and Eastern England, and his wife Eileen opened their one acre garden to the public, to raise money for BMS in June.

Baptists from as far afield as Hitchin, Hunstanton and Southend came to visit their garden at Dingley Dell.

Jim and Eileen's son and daughter-in-law, Anthony and Amanda, prepared lunch for around 100 people, and the 28:19 Brazil Action Team also spoke of their recent experiences.

The day raised over £900 for BMS.

Aliens join forces with BMS

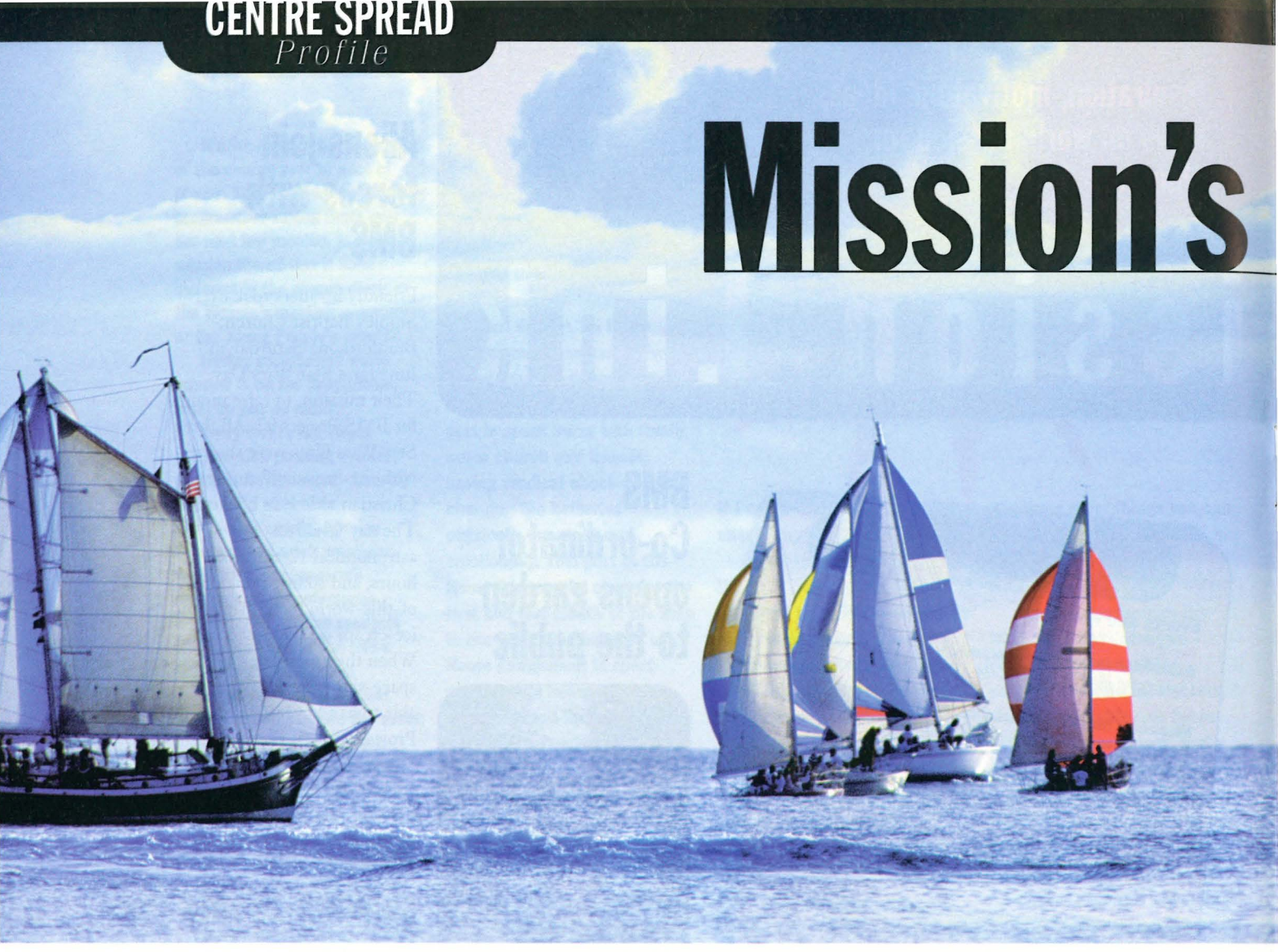
Friendly invaders took over Shipley Baptist Church, Bradford one Saturday in June for a Star Wars Day. Their mission: to raise money for BMS Project 97. All three Star Wars films were shown, with the Project 97 and other Christian videos in between. The day lasted an astronomical 12-and-a-half hours, and so fortifying out-of-this-world food, drinks and ice-cream were beamed in. When they went back to their space-ships, the aliens were able to hand over £42 towards Project 97.

WML summer events

Gwent Welsh Baptists celebrate nearly 100 years of the 'Zenana' tradition

Northern Association Baptists have fun on their Family Day.

Mission's



It's a long way from the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to the gently sloping Sussex Downs. And the contrasting landscapes sum up the shock of such a transatlantic move for Baptist pastor Ian Crossley. "I had to re-learn the British way of life" recalls the Surrey-born church leader, who'd spent the previous five-and-a-half years living in the United States. "I found out it's certainly true what they say about culture shock!"

The image of seafaring missionaries returning to their former sending countries was apt for him too. Ian is a qualified sailing instructor.

He'd gone Stateside to study. In the early 80s he attended Word of Life Bible College, New York State, then went on to Liberty Baptist University in Virginia.

Ian became a member of Berean Baptist Church, Lynchburg. And it was there he later heard some interesting news from the UK-based Christian Youth Enterprises (CYE).

The charity he'd been involved with during most of the 70s was buying the old Sussex Police Cadet Training Centre near Chichester as an evangelistic sail training facility. They wanted someone to take the helm. Ian went for it.

"As a small charity they needed the money to fund the post" explains the 40-year-old preacher. His church agreed to help finance his ministry. So in 1986, buoyed up with the support of his fellowship, Ian returned to the UK with his American wife, Cindy.

For the next three years he combined his full-time job as centre manager with nearly 35 outside speaking engagements in a year. "I'd trained for the pastoral ministry," says Ian, "and long term that was my goal."

Among his local preaching venues was Westbourne Baptist Church, situated in a West Sussex village of 2,000 people. They'd been without a pastor for 25 years, and invited him to be a candidate. In 1989 they called him to the pastorate.

"I was still doing 80 hours a week at the centre," says Ian, "so that was a practical problem." In early 1990 the pressure lifted slightly when he became part-time at the Centre as their chief instructor - while continuing as Westbourne's pastor.

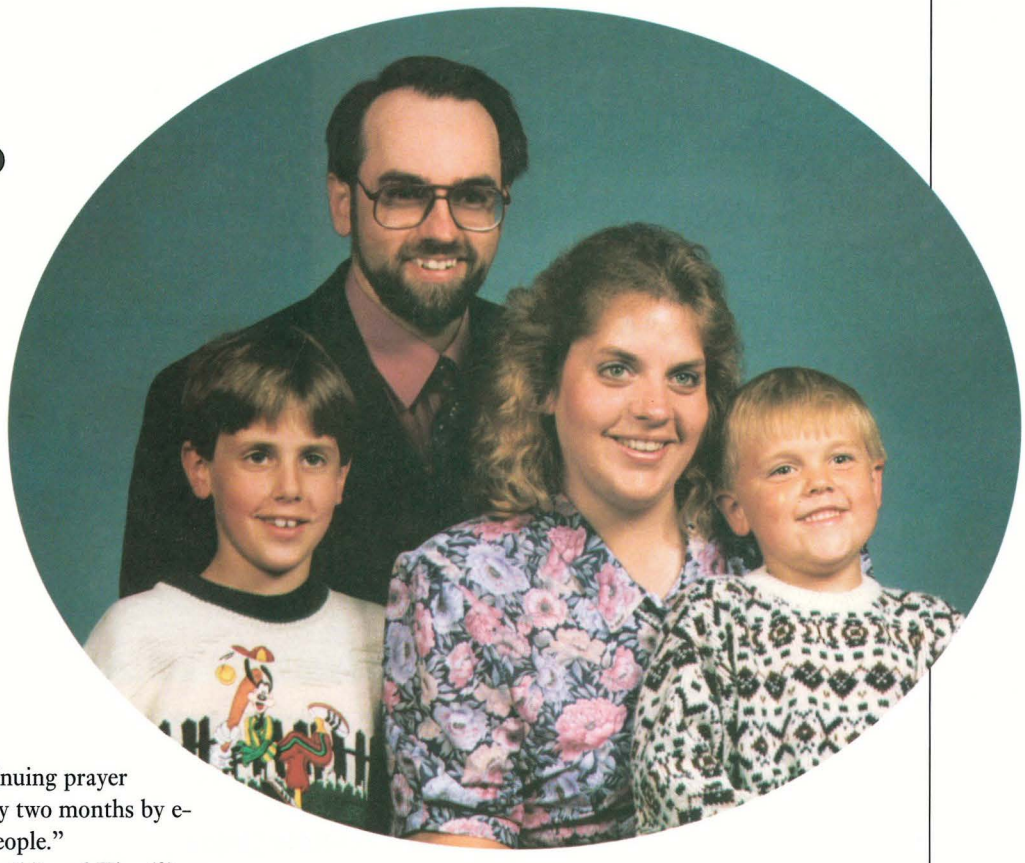
The shift made a difference in the US church. "Their response was supportive" Ian remembers. Even though their supporters were fully behind him at the Centre and providing two-thirds of his income, they were thrilled he was moving to a church-based ministry.

Berean Baptist Church - among other churches and individuals in the States - still provide more than half Ian's funding. The remainder comes mainly from Westbourne Baptist Church.

Ian and Cindy - who works on a multimedia evangelistic

coming home!

ENGLISHMAN IAN CROSSLEY RETURNED FROM THE STATES - ON A TRANSATLANTIC MISSION WAVE. **SHARON BARNARD** AND **CLIVE PRICE** TELL THE STORY . . .



project - also value their churches' continuing prayer support. "We send out a newsletter every two months by e-mail" he says, "and it's sent on to 200 people."

The Crossleys and their sons Nathan (11) and Tim (8) are also encouraged by occasional visits from American supporters. "Some may be business people who've saved up air miles to pay a visit" says Ian. "Others are church leaders."

The American link helped raise the church's profile locally. Westbourne have run summer missions and a holiday Bible club with the aid of their US visitors.

Ian believes in a continuous cross-cultural flow of mission work. Occasionally they return to America to visit supporters. Lengthy family trips are harder to fit in around their sons' education. So, when Ian goes back to North America this autumn, he'll go alone.

Just as American churches back Ian, Westbourne has set up standing orders to filter some 14 per cent of their income to missionaries. Total giving, including one-off gifts, is much higher, amounting to about 25 per cent of church income.

Established in 1867, the church supports six missionaries and societies including Pat Woolhouse in the Congo with BMS, the Baptist Home Mission Fund, and overseas nationals like a Spurgeons-trained Bulgarian couple now ministering in their country.

Since 1995, Ian has been off the water to concentrate full-time on his pastoral ministry. He's also involved with Walk Thru the Bible Ministries - who run interactive seminars providing Christians with a unique overview of scripture - and occasionally helps out at the sailing centre on a voluntary basis.

But it's not all work - or dry land for that matter. Every Thursday, on his day off, Ian can be found out on the water off Thorney Island racing his Solo dinghy. His is among a number of stories that show how the tide has turned for mission work, as the traditional "sending countries" welcome back their "exiled" evangelists. ●

Sharon Barnard is a freelance editor and writer, and has worked for missionary organisations. **Clive Price** is an editorial consultant to some of Britain's leading Christian magazines and organisations. They are both based in West Sussex.

Macenta

A SERIES EDITED BY **JAN KENDALL** THAT LOOKS AT TOWNS AND CITIES AROUND THE WORLD WHERE BMS PERSONNEL ARE WORKING

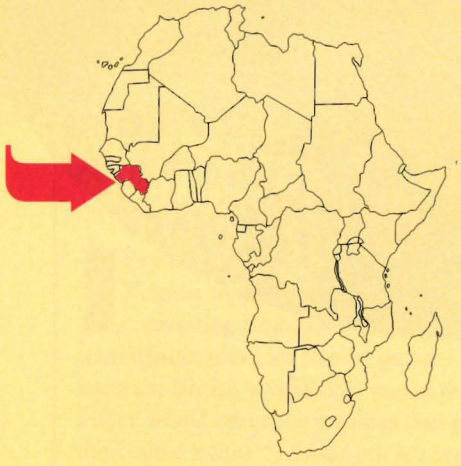
BY **MARK AND ANDREA HOTCHKIN**

Geography

Tropical rain forest	(deforestation around town)
Rainfall	3500 mm per year
Temperature	24-32°C
Staple diet	Rice, red palm oil
Cash crops	Coffee, tea, cola nuts

Population Statistics

Population	80,000 in Macenta Town 300,000 in Macenta Prefecture (County)	
Life expectancy	45 years	
Childhood mortality	under 5 years	25%
Religious faith	Muslim	75%
	Animist	21%
	Christian: Catholic	2%
	Protestant	2%



Our Town

Introduction

Macenta is situated in the Loma Hills of the Forest Region of Guinea just eight miles from the Liberian border. It had a population of 40,000 until 1990 but since then has doubled in size mainly due to refugees and displaced people from the Liberian civil war.

People

The first generation of protestant Christians at Macenta are now old people. Their children, grandchildren and neighbours are members of the church. However the Christian community is almost completely confined to the Forest people, Toma and Kissi. The majority of the townspeople are Malinké who have migrated from the northern savannah bringing with them their Islamic faith.

Everything stops for prayer

As I turned the corner in the Landrover I saw that the road was blocked by rows and rows of people kneeling in prayer. It was time for evening prayers before breaking the daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan. There was no room to pass but I was in a hurry - a mother needed a caesarian section at the hospital so the nursing assistant accompanying me got down and asked if we could be let through . . . No, we were politely told to wait.

Macenta is a predominantly Muslim town, not that you would immediately

recognise it as such. The women wear brightly coloured clothes, are never veiled and the many traditional mosques blend in amongst the houses being simply built of mud bricks without minarets. However, you don't have to live here long before you realise the importance of people's faith as they seek to submit to the will of God. Everything stops for prayer.

At 1.00 pm you will find the hospital director, the gardener, the visitors and even the patients with their prayer mat unrolled prostrating themselves before God. Wherever they are in the office, corridors or on the wards, it's a way of life. On Friday all who can go to the mosque and routine work stops at mid-day.

During Ramadan evening prayer is more important than usual and the local mosques are too small to hold all the faithful so they spill out onto the road. The final day of the fast thousands gather in the football stadium dressed in their best flowing robes to pray together. There is a new big mosque in town; another is under construction. These are gifts from the people of Saudi Arabia along with the one tarmac road that runs through the town on the way to the regional capital of Nzerekore.

Time

In May, the church organised the now annual March for Jesus. Sunday morning it was announced to the 400 people present to assemble at 3.00pm precisely. We arrived to take part at 3.45pm and wondered where everyone had gone. They hadn't, they were yet to arrive.. By 5.00pm we were organised and 100 of us set off to march round the town singing and proclaiming Jesus as Lord. But the only people who showed any reaction were the taxi drivers who sounded their horns when we blocked the main street.

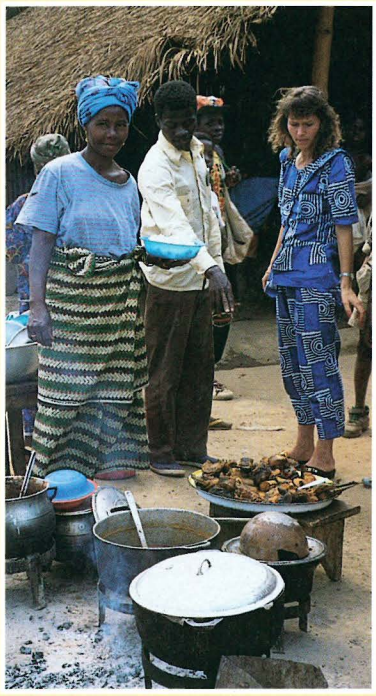
Timing is a delicate subject for those of European origin - it is easy for us to get upset by the lack of organisation and the delays. So we try to turn up as late as everyone else, not always successfully.

On Christmas Eve the various choirs and prayer groups put on a programme of songs and drama scheduled to begin at 7.00 pm. We turned up at 7.30 to find the church already bulging with 600 people and we had to lean through the window to get a view. Naturally the performance didn't begin until after 8.00 pm but for once people judged it worthwhile to turn up early!

Continued on Page 22

Our town

Macenta



Our Town

Market Day

Thursday morning the sun has just risen and already the neighbours can be heard pounding rice and chopping wood. They want to get the chores done quickly so that they can join the increasing stream of people heading down the mudbaked road towards town. There are people with huge bowls of oranges and bananas, stacks of French bread, trays of eggs, you name it you will see it, all effortlessly balanced on the head. It's market day.

By ten o'clock the centre of town is a heaving mass of humanity buying and selling. Old ladies with little piles of onions, tomatoes and hot peppers supply the essential ingredients for a Guinean sauce. Women are selling by the scoop polished imported rice, rejagie rice or country rice to complete the bare essentials. Young traders vie for your attention with wheelbarrows piled high with a curious mixture of matches, razor blades, batteries, cough sweets, soap and ball point pens. Members of a local cooperative have come with hand printed material and are happy for you to stop and browse. The price - would that be the first price, the last price or the white man's price you are wanting? Haggling is the norm for everything except basic foodstuffs.

The police try in vain to make the traffic go round the temporary roundabout and enjoy blowing their whistles when it doesn't.

There are plenty of snacks if you are feeling hungry: doughnuts, kebabs, sweetcorn and even a bottle of Coke, now down in price in a Government attempt to stimulate the economy.

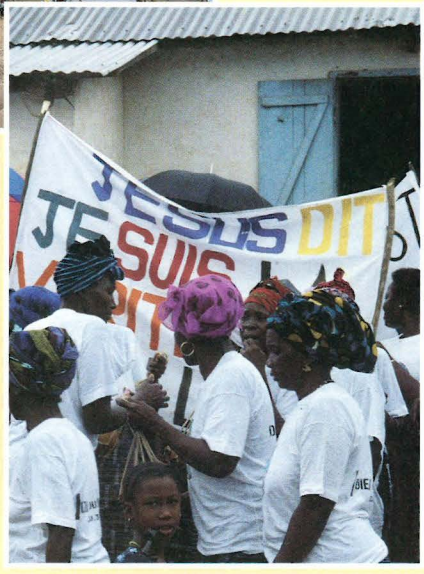
If what you have eaten doesn't agree with you, don't worry. You can always buy some pills from one of the many children who have a tray of medicines on their head. Antibiotics, painkillers, sedatives - one or two of the red and black capsules is the current favourite.

Market day is the highlight of the week. Everyone is there: the female nurses mysteriously finish their work before mid-day. They can't resist a bargain any more than you.

At last evening comes, and the cars and taxis are loaded up: people on seats, children in the boot and the apprentices sat on the roof hanging onto the goods. After a good day's shopping they are heading back to the calm of village life.

Time

The wind starts, the wooden shutters blow back and forth, our house is dark although it is only 4 o'clock. I rush out to get the nappies from the washing line. It's



going to rain. At the height of the rainy season, May and June, you can almost set your watch by it. Lashing down it drowns out all conversation as it drums on the tin roof. Soon the dirt roads are awash, the half finished concrete drains filled to overflowing. An hour later the road is dry again.

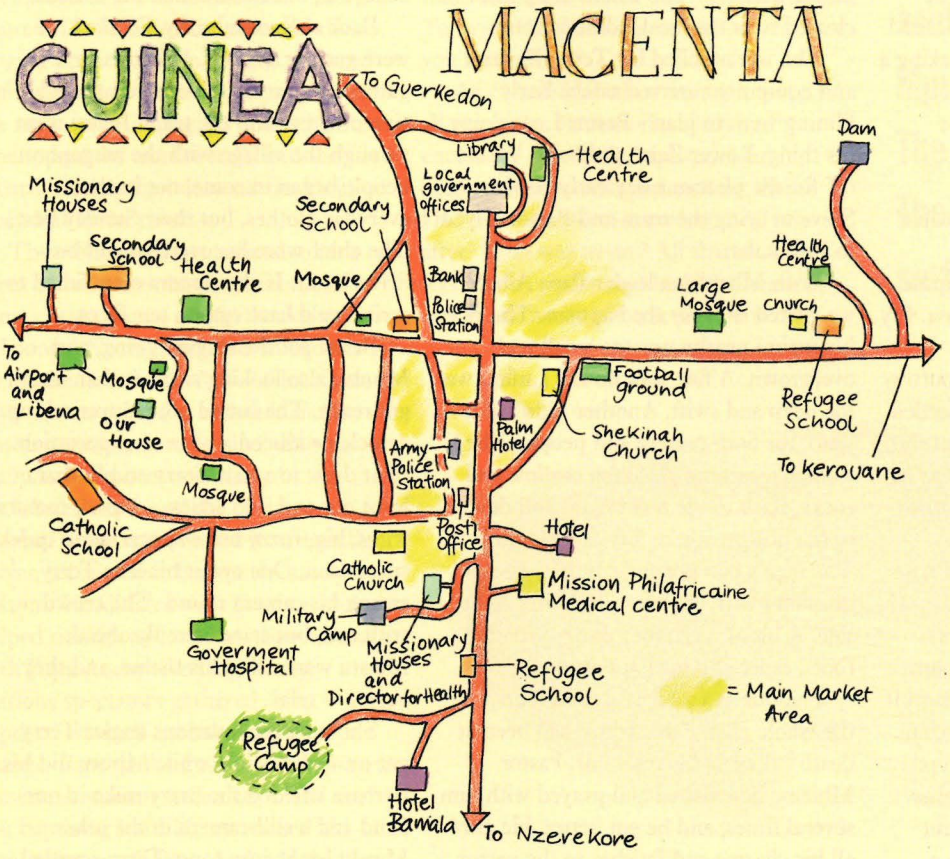
Macenta certainly doesn't have a water problem - if you use quantity as your measure. Quality is another matter.

Above the town on a low hill is a large reservoir and piped water is available at a price - 500,000 FG (£350) for a standpipe in our back yard and 7000 FG each month for the water used.

Communal taps were placed around the town but are mainly disconnected due to non payment of bills. Who wants to pay for something that is free? Our neighbours like most people have dug a well and found water at two to five metres. They use the water for washing and are fortunate to get their drinking water from our tap.

Most people drink well water, faecal contamination is common (which spreads intestinal worms) and each dry season there are sporadic cases of typhoid. We hope that there will not be another cholera epidemic like that which killed hundreds of people in 1995.

The high rainfall should ensure that the small hydroelectric dam on the edge of town will supply plentiful electricity. But the lack of spare parts and frequent break downs mean that even those rich enough to have a single light bulb to illuminate their homes have to use kerosene lamps. Of course there is no street lighting so after dark the wayside stalls are lit up by flickering candles and lamps.



Leisure

An occasional generator can be heard, usually supplying power for a video or satellite TV club. Posters advertise the films, the more violent the better, only 200 FG entry. A Cannes-winning African film was advertised for one evening, only to be immediately replaced by Dead Commando Massacre 5.

Consequently, little boys practice martial arts in the streets when not pursuing the number one sport, football. Which brings us to perhaps the least violent show in town: Manchester United versus Liverpool - live by satellite.

It's a strange world! ●

THE DEMOCRATIC CO

THE WEEK HOLLYWOOD HIT MBANKANA BY
OWEN CLARK

Well, not quite Hollywood, but the nearest that Mbankana will get to it for some time. The BMS video team! Rather, the TANDEM team of Terry and Barbara Page making a video for BMS.

Brazil. Thailand. And now Zaire (Congo). In seven days. Theme? "Reaching the Unevangelised". Schedule? As first proposed, impossible! Until cut down to size. Itinerary? Kinshasa - Mbanza-Ngungu - Kimpese - Kinshasa - Bateke plateau - Kinshasa. Fly home shattered.

The Bateke plateau slot was to portray evangelism and a baptism. These needed to be authentic events, and also meet the requirements of the schedule: evangelism on Wednesday afternoon, and a baptism on Thursday morning.

District Evangelist Mputu and Pastor Mbieme at Bwantaba were keen. No problem with evangelism! Members would canvass nearby villages to ensure a good turn-out. Mputu would do his stuff. The villagers must behave naturally, not ham it up. And not look at the camera!

At Mbankana a baptismal class was under way. About a dozen. The event would have to be at nine o'clock on a Thursday morning? Why not? A suitable spot on a local river would be identified nearer the time. The whole thing must be cleared with the local Administrator.

The weeks rolled by. Terry, Barbara and equipment arrived safely. Early filming went to plan - Pastor Loso doing his thing. Lower Zaire and back. We set off for the plateau a day early, leaving Steve to bring the team and Pastor Kiyedi to Bwantaba.

With Mbankana leader Papa Albert we visited sites for the baptism. The river Nzonzimi nearby was too small and overgrown. A fine spot on the Lufimi was too deep and swift. Another didn't give space for both camera and people. The women's bathing place too shallow and rocky. Back to the main road, and down to the bridge, where lorries often stop. The men's bathing spot. Public, chest-deep and with enough calm water to be safe. A bit of a clamber down over tree roots, especially for Papa Andre.

Famous as a powerful sorcerer over the whole area, Papa Andre had been at death's door in his mud hut. Pastor Mbieme had visited and prayed with him several times, and he got better. He gave all his charms and fetishes to the pastor, saying God had healed him. Now he wanted to follow Jesus. People did not believe it, but he attended the classes.

Back at Bwantaba, by 4 o'clock we were getting anxious. Villagers were gathering near the chief's compound. No sign of Steve and the team. Belesi went through the village with the megaphone. People began to come, not in their everyday clothes, but their Sunday best. The chief wore his overcoat and bus-driver's hat. If the camera crew failed to arrive we'd have egg on our faces.

Belesi got the singing going, and Mputu, also looking smarter than usual, got ready. The sound of an approaching vehicle produced a buzz of expectation. As it drew to a halt Terry and Barbara leapt out and into action - tripod, camera, wires, big, fuzzy mike appearing in quick succession. One eye at his lens Terry swung his camera round. The crowd stiffened, but stared fixedly ahead. Mputu warmed to his theme, and they began to relax.

Shooting from various angles Terry got on with his job, while Mputu did his. Barbara wielded the fuzzy mike in one hand and a still camera in the other. Mputu broke into song. Terry scuttled to

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

A Fair Attempt

a new position. Mputu made his appeal. The response was massive. The wheat would have to be sorted from the chaff later. Mputu gave the benediction. Terry was shooting the large, red ball of a sun going down. All agreed it had been a great occasion.

Next morning filming started in Mbankana at the stick-and-palm frond church. Little Chimane animated the singing outside. Pastor Kiyedi prepared the candidates. They would process to the main road singing, go down the busy street, pass the market stalls and the Civil Guard barrier, then descend the long, steep hill to the river.

The video team went ahead to film them coming, but the procession took a short cut and came out further down. Whooops! Never mind. Go on and get set up on the river bank. A bit of local colour - woman carrying log on head, another washing pots at water's edge. All was ready as the procession arrived.

A brief word, and the two pastors climbed down into the water with a slight shiver, setting their feet on the sandy bottom. Candidates were lined up and helped down, two at a time. Special care with Papa Andre! We sang lustily. Curious spectators gathered. The baptised went off into the bushes to change. Papa Andre gave his testimony to camera. A woman screamed, "Why are you baptising him? He's a wicked old man, a sorcerer!" Papa Andre looked her in the eye. "I've given it all up for Jesus," he said.

Back up the hill. Shot of a bullock-cart stuck in sand. The procession coming up through town. Papa Andre buying fish from market women. An interview with the Administrator. Time had gone, and the team had to hit the road. Kinshasa waited yet. "Goodbye Terry and Barbara. Good journey. See you some time!"

All of a sudden they were gone, and all was quiet. Back to the church to encourage the newly baptised. Had it been an authentic experience for them? Had the video team got what they were after? Who was to say? All that we knew was that a fair attempt had been made to satisfy the needs of both parties. ●

Barbara wielded the fuzzy mike in one hand and a still camera in the other. Mputu broke into song. Terry scuttled to a new position. Mputu made his appeal. The response was massive. The wheat would have to be sorted from the chaff later.

TED AND DEE HALE SPENT A SABBATICAL IN JAMAICA AS GUESTS OF THE JAMAICA BAPTIST UNION.

Smiles

My wife, Dee, and I spent three months in Jamaica; we were placed with Revd Dr Heckford Sharpe, pastor to four Baptist churches in and around Montego Bay and President of the Jamaica Baptist Union. Most of our time was spent up in the hills twelve miles inland from Montego Bay in a country district called Maldon. We were deeply privileged to share the lives, and just a little of the lifestyle of people who live in the countryside of Jamaica - and the first thing to say about the people we met was that they made us feel at home and genuinely seemed to feel that they were privileged by our visit to them!

The majority of Jamaicans are trapped in poverty, and everyone's life is impoverished by the third world status of the island. Jamaica has been devastated by earthquakes and hurricanes, by both banana blight and the failure of traditional markets for its produce, and, of course, it has crippling debts. It desperately needs whatever income it can generate to renew its own infrastructure. The provision of decent roads and public transport, freely available education to secondary level for all, a reliable energy supply, and clean running water should not be seen as luxuries in the late twentieth century. Pictures of little children carrying water-containers on their heads may be appealing, but the poverty they represent is appalling!

Jamaica is further blighted by the mass emigration of its ablest workers to the UK, the USA and Canada in an attempt to better themselves. The instability this causes in family relationships adds to the historically-based causes of social instability associated with slavery. In spite of many years reading the stories of

For many Jamaicans life is unnecessarily and destructively very hard, and death is premature.

ONE LORD. ONE FAITH. ONE BAPTISM
EPHESIANS 4:5
HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED
GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL MY NEEDS

that mask the pain

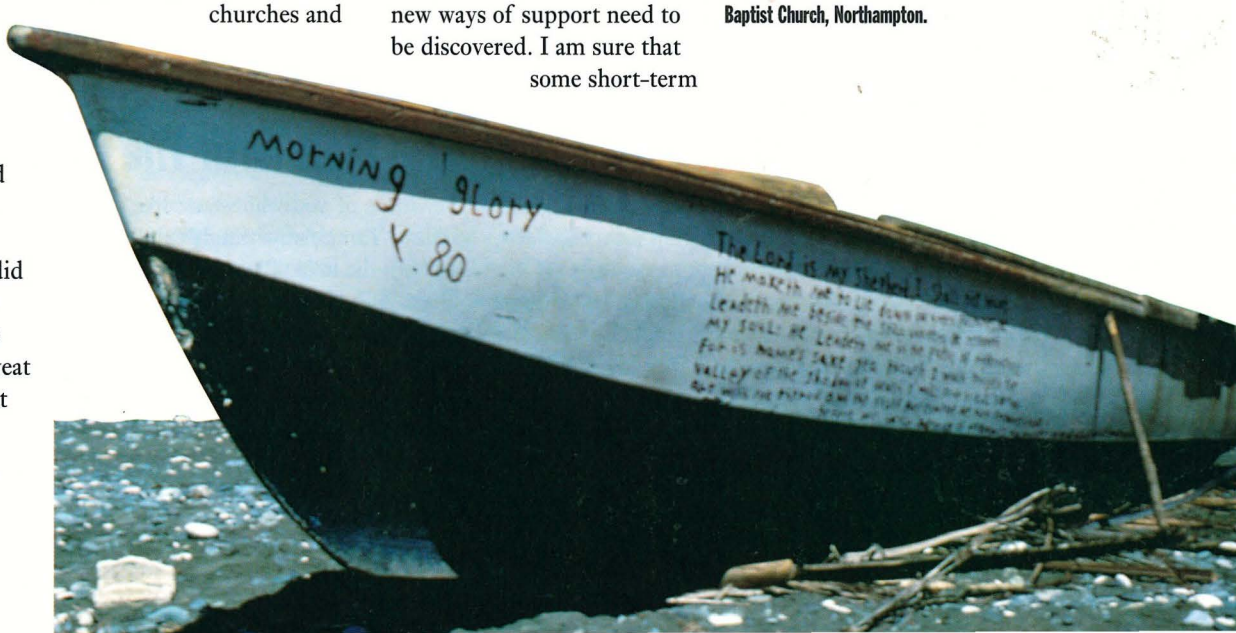
Moses, I had never realised how the experience of enslavement and poverty degrades a people and affects their sense of self worth. Inescapable poverty encourages a spirit of hopelessness and opens the doors to the violence, drug-trafficking and corruption at all levels of society which mars Jamaica's life.

If I have painted a depressing picture of Jamaica, it is right to do so, and although I want to offer some positive aspect of its life as well, I would not want any reader to think, "Oh it's really alright then. It's not as bad as all that!" For many Jamaicans life is unnecessarily and destructively very hard, and death is premature.

And yet I would do Jamaicans an injustice if I did not report that Jamaica is a land of smiles, of countless resilient people who will sweat in the sun for hours of what amounts to £2, for good neighbours, caring parents, nurses and doctors staying to serve their country when greater rewards are available elsewhere, devoted hard working pastors and prayerful, faithful church members. Almost every Baptist church we visited had educational and social programmes as part of their life. In the midst of poverty of all kinds the richness of the gospel is offered in word and deed, and compassion is shown in practical ways such as counselling or even financial help within the limited means available to the churches. In Kingston especially we saw churches and church members literally working in the firing line and offering a costly witness to peace, justice, truth, hope and reconciliation in the face of much that opposed them, but they are often hindered by lack of money. American backers can do more harm than good by their fickle support, but is anyone else willing to offer the kind of "help with no strings" which Jamaicans need?

The BMS is much respected for its past involvement in the cause of emancipation, and for the supply of personnel; but now new ways of support need to be discovered. I am sure that some short-term placements will be an encouragement; vigorous campaigning for fair trading and debt-release is essential, and small tokens of support such as sending a few surplus hymn-books are appreciated; but I somehow sense that until by God's grace we all see ourselves as co-workers with Christ, each with the dignity of a child of God, and with a responsibility for each other, the Jamaican smile will continue to mask much Jamaican pain. ●

Ted Hale is minister of Abbey Centre Baptist Church, Northampton.



TAKE 2

Take Two – a resource for church leaders and workers

Wanted - old Baptist hymn books

Jamaican Baptists would like to receive redundant Baptist hymn books, in good condition.

Previously 600 were collected and sent to Jamaica; the books have all been distributed to grateful churches, and they will gladly receive any more that you can send.

Poverty in Jamaica is such that churches do not have the funds to replace their 19th century US hymn books en masse; neither can they afford ones specially produced for them in the UK.

Further information available from Ted Hale, 134 Towcester Road, Northampton, NN4 8LH. Tel 01604 762305.

Question to Ponder

Is 'reverse flow' the best way of describing the movement of missionaries from 'receiving' to 'sending' countries?

Does it imply a hidden agenda in describing who goes where?

Letter to the Editor

The Daily Telegraph magazine published a report covering the last days of President Mobutu's reign in Zaire. It describes what those of us who have visited Zaire know only too well, that Mobutu's presidency was a disaster for the suffering millions of Zaire. For 30 years the whole crumbling structure of Mobutu's regime was based on nepotism, corruption and intimidation.

Everyone, including BMS missionaries of yesterday and today, knew that Mobutu's reign was rotten to the core and built on lies. But nobody would have learned about this from BMS missionaries on deputation. The Society played Mobutu's game in maintaining the conspiracy of silence concerning the real situation in Zaire.

BMS has a truly noble record in campaigning for human rights. If we sought to be a voice for Indian widows, Jamaican slaves, Angolan refugees etc where was our voice when Mobutu stamped over the poor in Zaire?

I will no doubt be told that if BMS and CBFZ had publicly denounced Mobutu's regime, we would have been unable to support the national church. But this policy of quietism was not pursued by Livingstone, Carey, Knibb, Bonhoeffer, and Martin Luther King. Was there not a clear conflict between morality and expediency here?

Ron Armstrong
Clevedon, Avon

resources *for leaders*

FACTS AND FIGURES Country	Protestant Missionaries to (ratio)	% of population already reckoned to be Christian (Prot)	Protestant Missionaries from
AFRICA			
Angola	103 (1:97,000 people)	84.6% (19.8%)	9
Cent Af Rep	208 (1:14,000 people)	83% (47.2%)	14
Dem Rep of Congo	1,406 (1:25,000 people)	95.9% (36%)	2,086
Guinea	187 (1:36,800 people)	4.5% (0.58%)	8
Zimbabwe	630 (1:15,400 people)	61.7% (33%)	240
ASIA			
Bangladesh	316 (1:366,000 people)	0.44% (0.23%)	127
India	766 (1:1,076,000 people)	2.61% (1.91%)	11,284
Indonesia	1,595 (1:114,000 people)	12.5% (9.3%)	1,512
Nepal	582 (1: 31,000 people)	0.58% (0.56%)	155
Sri Lanka	117 (1: 147,000 people)	7.6% (0.92%)	159
Thailand	1,293 (1:43,100 people)	1% (0.43%)	117
EUROPE			
Albania	182 (1:18,800 people)	18% (0.06%)	n/a
Belgium	571 (1:17,400 people)	89.3% (0.8%)	60
France	1,224 (1:45,900 people)	71.5% (1.77%)	452
Italy	462 (1: 124,000 people)	80.1% (0.82%)	197
Portugal	335 (1:30,700 people)	96% (1.24%)	168
UK	1,021 (1:56,200 people)	66.5% (53.2%)	7,012
MIDDLE EAST			
Egypt	217 (1:249,000 people)	14.2% (0.85%)	75
Iran	0	0.4% (0.03%)	7
Jordan	103 (1:32,600 people)	4.69% (0.46%)	16
NORTH AMERICA			
Canada	403 (1:65,800 people)	83.5% (32.2%)	5,432
USA	2,320 (1:107,000 people)	86.5% (51.3%)	59,074
CENTRAL & SOUTHERN AMERICA			
Brazil	3,381 (1:44,500 people)	92.4% (21.6%)	2,755
El Salvador	102 (1:51,500 people)	97.5% (20.6%)	130
Jamaica	209 (1:12,000 people)	86% (69.8%)	45
Trinidad & Tob	96 (1:13,800 people)	59.8% (28%)	32
AUSTRALIA			
Australia	726 (1:23,100 people)	70.6% (39.6%)	3,543

All statistics from Operation World

The Man With The Bird On His Head

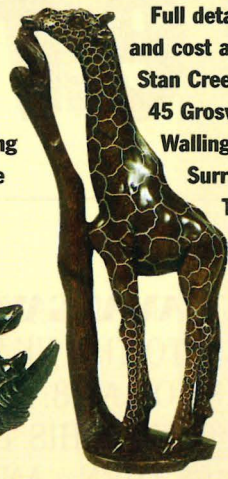
For those of you who would like to read the full story of John Rush's visit to Tanna, unwittingly fulfilling a strange prophecy (see pages 14/15), the book The Man With The Bird On His Head is published by YWAM Publishing, PO Box 55787, Seattle, WA 98155, USA.

The book takes its title from a curious carving John Rush saw during his visit - a man with a bird on his head. He asked what the piece meant, and was told that it signified the man was a messenger, who came from far away with news.

ACTION CARD

Zimbabwe Carvings

A limited quantity of soapstone carvings have been imported from Zimbabwe with the aim of encouraging a group of young men who might otherwise be unemployed, and to raise funds for BMS work there. Most of the carvings represent animals from Africa and include hippos, elephants, rhinos, lions, hares and tortoises.



Full details of sizes and cost available from Stan Crees, 45 Grosvenor Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 0EN. Tel 0181 647 2441

One World Week

God made the world, and cares for every one of his creatures, wherever they live and whatever their creed or colour. That is the message of One World Week, a week long grass-roots programme sponsored by all the mainline UK churches and church agencies, including the BU. It is a week of events and activities designed to stimulate thought and action about the world and its peoples, and to get people actively doing something about some of the problems of injustice and inequality which confront us all.

One World Week is a local programme, in other words each local community or church group has complete freedom to interpret the theme for the year in whatever way they think is appropriate. It is a wonderful way to get people involved in "mission", and can be tremendous fun.

One World Week takes place this year between 19 and 26 October and the theme is "stretching the limits" (the limits of our vision, our faith, our love, our mission). An action kit full of ideas, suggestions, information and worship resources is available for £4.75 from the office at One World Week, PO Box 2555, Reading, Berks, RG1 4PS. Tel 0118 939 4933.

(Contributed by Hugh Doyle who is the BU representative on the OWW management committee and writes the worship resources for this year's action pack.)

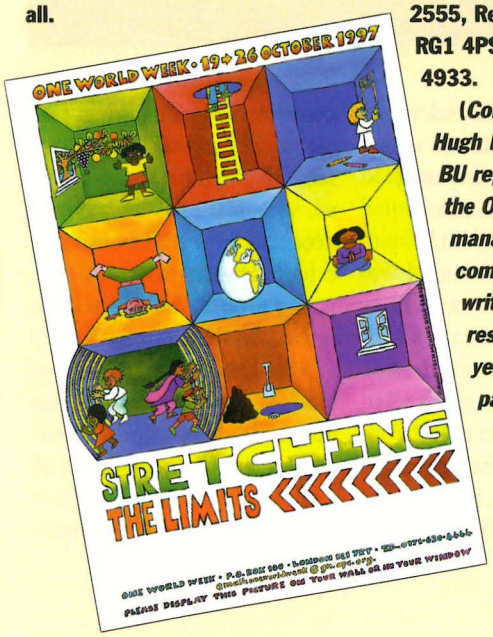


PHOTO: SEAN SPRAGUE/PANOS PICTURES

Rural Credit Schemes

"How can you say the poor are not credit-worthy?" asks the founder of the Grameen Bank (meaning "rural" bank) of Bangladesh.

The Grameen Bank began in 1976 as an experiment with a radical idea - that poor people supplied with working capital could generate productive self employment without external assistance. Over 80% of clients are women, and the repayment rate is 98%. Now the Grameen is the country's fourth largest bank, making small loans to more than two million people who were previously considered "unbankable".

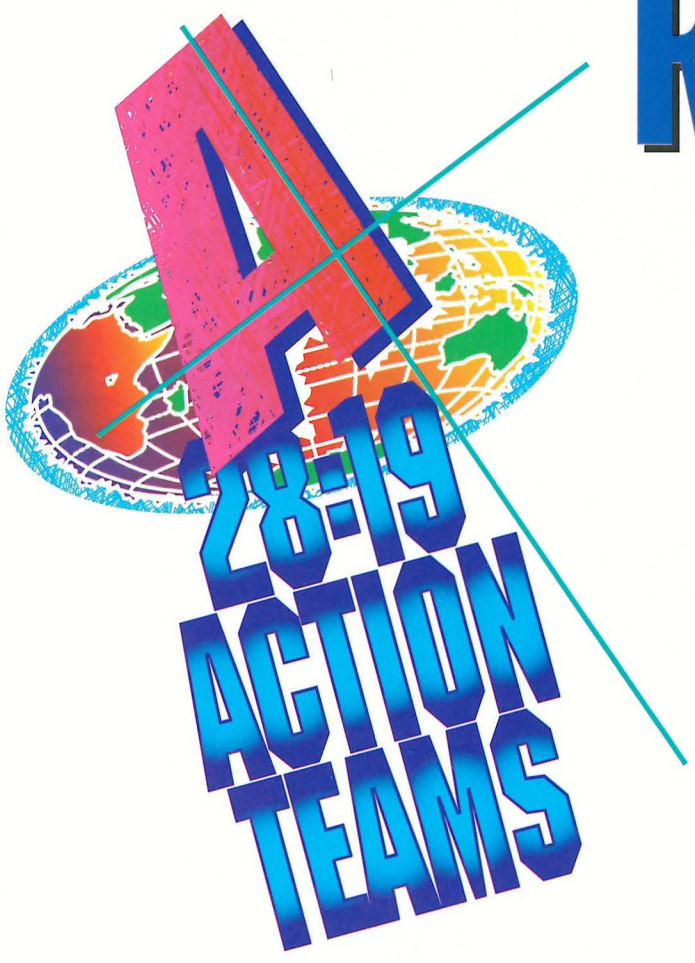
In the past, it would have been impossible for a woman from a poor rural community in Bangladesh to amass enough money to buy a sewing machine but, with a loan provided by the community bank, she is able to clothe her family, make goods to sell for profit, repay the loan and gain self worth and self sufficiency.

The Methodist Relief and Development Fund in Britain is working with the Methodist Church in Haiti, one of the world's poorest countries, to provide community banking schemes. Since 1993, twelve community banks have been established and levels of repayment are always close to 100 per cent. Each community bank is effectively an association of small businesses and may be made up of up to 50 women who meet weekly to receive or repay loans and establish voluntary savings. Help is also provided with basic literacy and numeracy skills. The women are largely involved in growing produce and trading at the local markets.

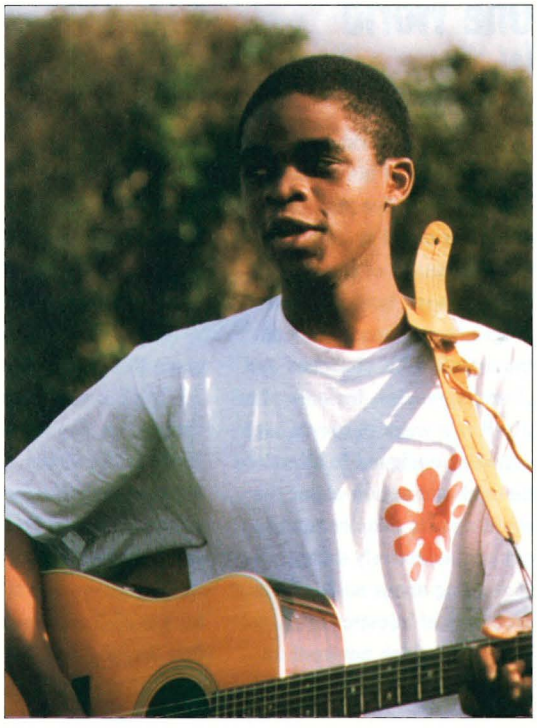
Please send your card of encouragement to the women working hard to help themselves, their families and their communities in Haiti c/o Mrs Inette Durandis, Coordination des Programmes de Developpement, Bureau COD, Delmas 95 No 15, Freres, PO Box 6, Port au Prince, Haiti. If possible, write in French and ask that your greeting be passed to a member of one of the community banking schemes.

TAKE 2

Reverse



MARTIN SAMANGAYA CAME FROM ZIMBABWE TO THE UK TWO YEARS AGO TO BE PART OF A 28:19 ACTION TEAM. HE REFLECTS ON HIS TIME AS A MISSIONARY THEN - AND NOW.



When my pastor asked me if I wanted to be part of a missionary team that would travel around the UK aiming to motivate and challenge young people, I wondered what I had to offer the young people in the UK.

At that point in time, my image of a missionary was that of a very much respected elderly white couple, working in Africa, struggling with the native language and always maintaining a smiling face. There was also the fact that, having grown up in Zimbabwe, we have always been a recipient of things from the Western world. It never occurred to me that the Western countries had any need for missionary work - it was as if their sole aim was to send missionaries to Africa because their own country had no need for missionary work. It was for these reasons that I was puzzled as to why I was asked to join the 28:19 Action Team.

I'm glad to say that I did come to the UK to join the team. I had been fortunate that God had prepared me beforehand, through my work with the Scripture Union in Zimbabwe, for the work I was to do with Nick and Karen who were the other members of the team.

My time on the 28:19 Action Team was certainly a challenge and an eye opener. I was surprised at the lack of interest in the Bible and the Church amongst the young people. During our talks I noticed that certain Bible stories and verses, which I presumed that everyone knew, were often unknown to the young people we worked with. I also discovered that in some schools you could not talk openly about Christianity. I sensed that "church" for a lot of the young people was perceived as being boring, for old people, and where you sang long hymns. I could now see why mission work was necessary in the UK - this was evident by the amount of young people who are losing interest in the church.

Our missionary status was often quite hard for the young people to grasp, as we did not meet the stereotyped image of a missionary, or a Christian either (ie we weren't boring,

flow action

and we didn't sing long hymns)! For a lot of the youngsters we were able to change that image, and we presented the Bible to them in an exciting way, which will hopefully remain with them for a long time.

The diversity of our backgrounds and culture helped our work as a team. We were able to share our different Christian experiences with others. It became valuable as we had opportunities to speak about God's love when people asked us about ourselves and our respective countries. Personally, the idea of working with two young people from different backgrounds and cultures helped me to be flexible, open-minded and to respect others' opinions and contributions.

Now, two years on from the Challenge UK 28:19 Action Team, I am still here in England, completing my nursing training at St James University Hospital in Leeds (popular for its television programme "Jimmy's"). The concept of being a missionary in the UK remained with me after the Action Team programme ended. During my work in the hospitals, I come across people with a variety of different problems and illnesses who are often worried and anxious. As a Christian I always make the most of opportunities to chat with them and, most importantly, to lend a listening ear. I feel that I can do this genuinely and not out of duty. Work with young people has continued and I have become an active member in my church's youth work.

It is legitimate to acknowledge the fact the "reverse flow mission" is valuable, in that people can learn to appreciate different cultures and learn from each other. The experiences of the 28:19 Challenge UK Action Team will remain with me forever. I sometimes wish every young person could have the same opportunity as myself. ●

Prayer *focus*

News from BMS colleagues and partners around the world to complement the BMS Prayer Guide

Around the world

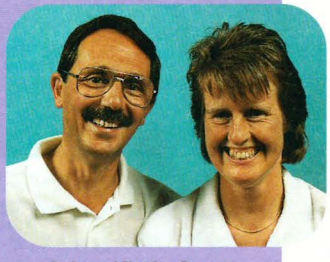
Albania

Gill and Glyn Jones

After attending AEP meetings in Switzerland, Gill and Glyn Jones returned to Albania on 12 July for their last term of service before returning to the UK in October.

In response to pleas from their church in Bregu i Lumit, Ryder and Heather Rogers returned to Albania on 15 July. But they won't be taking over. Back in May, Ryder and Heather left Eda (26) and Skender (24) in charge of biblical teaching, with Velma (18) looking after the prayer life of the church and Flutura (17) heading up a worship group of 13-24 year olds. Despite their youth and inexperience, these and other Albanian nationals have proved themselves more than equal to the task of church leadership. The priority of BMS workers returning to the country is to make sure those leadership roles continue to flourish.

By 1 August, Saverio and Betsy Guarna were back in Tirana, having stopped off on the way to visit Betsy's mother in Rome.



Ryder and Heather Rogers

David and Yvonne Wheeler also returned in August. Their ministry straddles the continents: BMS missionaries in Bangladesh from 1977 to 1985, they then moved to India, where David worked as an engineer on large scale projects supported by aid from the British Government. By 1994, they felt God was calling them to Europe, so they rejoined BMS and moved to Albania.

Yvonne's work centres round the ABC clinic, a family practice in Tirana with ECG ultrasound, emergency and basic laboratory services. Because all the full time staff are Christians, the Clinic is able to offer training and advice in mission alongside its other services (the Albanian Evangelical Alliance rents part of the upper floor). Because expat companies pay for their employees to be treated at the clinic, needy local people can be treated free of charge - regular collections of warm clothes help them through the vicious Albanian winters.

Saverio and Betsy Guarna

Thanks to David's organisational skills, the 300 year old Baptist Centre in Tirana has a new roof and a new set of wiring! Further afield, irrigation and forestry projects in and around Kruje and the refurbished isolation block at the Vlore General Hospital owe much to David's expertise - even workmen building a much-needed road into the mountains would look to him to arbitrate in their many disputes (the subject, says David, of frequent silent prayer!).

Please pray

- for continued peace after the June elections - an opportunity to rebuild the economy, combat lawlessness and restore the control of weapons
- for the work of the ABC clinic, that by pooling resources it can continue to bring healing and hope to the local community
- that David's road will be kept in reasonable condition, so that the good news of Jesus can travel along it to the many mountain villages
- for relationships within the team and between the team and their colleagues - that grace and understanding would grow as expatriate Christian workers seek to stand alongside their Albanian friends through a difficult time.

FRANCE

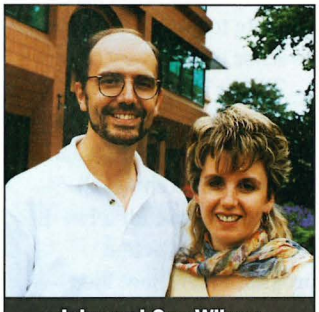
Catherine and Robert Atkins
TOULOUSE

Having raided a nearby estate agents for a packet of cigarettes, thieves broke in to the Atkins office at the Chapelle des Capitouls in Toulouse for an old guitar, leaving behind a mandolin, a photocopier and an electric typewriter. A church which reaches out to the drug-addicted and homeless is not an insurance salesman's dream! But the Atkins have been able to help an estate agent who has fallen on hard times: Boris lost everything through a court case that is still going on back home - now he ekes a living by begging at traffic lights while he waits for a verdict on his future. Which could be very much brighter because of his connection with the church: after all, a former drug dealer is now getting ready to train as a Baptist minister!

Please pray

- for the Atkins' ministry, bringing hope to people from all walks of life
- for peace and protection from crime as the church in Toulouse continues to grow

As John and Sue Wilson prepare to celebrate the tenth anniversary of their church in Morsang-sur-Orge, new projects are still abounding.



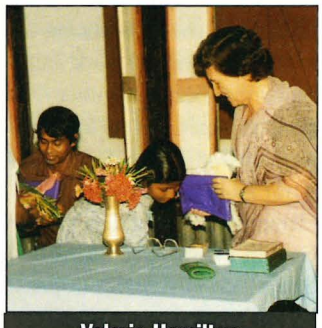
John and Sue Wilson
MORSANG-SUR-ORGE

May saw a month's outreach on the streets of Morsang, helped by a Baptist team from America. And, following a promising first run, the enquirers' course is being developed further so as to keep up interest without pushing them too hard. For Sue to keep teaching English, they've had to set up a local branch of the ABEJ, the national association which regulates cultural and social projects. But at least this means they can now set up a clothing bank as another point of contact and help to the local community.

Please pray

- for John, Sue and their children - Jessica, Kelly, Tommy and infant Bonny.
- for the Hadley family which moved south to St Etienne in August to help Pastor Luc Sadorge with church planting.

BANGLADESH



Valerie Hamilton
DHAKA

Politics and the weather seem to be heightening curiosity about Christianity in this Muslim country. Visitors to the annual meeting of the local Baptist Association in Dhaka said they had received such help from Christians following the recent cyclone, they were longing to find out more about the Christian faith!

Valerie Hamilton's retirement leaves a big hole in Baptist ministry to the children of Bangladesh: working full time to coordinate Sunday School activities across the country, she also set the national curriculum for Christian education in schools - compulsory for those with an ethnic Christian background.

But she leaves behind a highly motivated team, trained and inspired to carry on the children's camps and RE teacher training. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha (BBS) will continue to identify and develop potential full time workers, backed up by church placements and correspondence courses from the College of Christian Theology at Sarvar.

Please pray

- that Christians would continue to match words with action, making a difference for Jesus in ordinary people's lives.
- for Valerie as she adjusts to her new life, and for those stepping into her shoes
- that the Sunday School work will continue to flourish, shaping the new generation in Bangladesh
- that young Bangladeshi Christians would respond to God's call to ministry
- for efforts by the BBS to streamline office administration at its base in Mirpur near Dhaka: government regulations result in quantities of paperwork - may that never hinder the central task of making Jesus known.

Prayer focus

Around the world

NEPAL

Katie Norris
JUMLA

Converted in Afghanistan, baptised in Nepal - now Katie Norris is giving something back to her beloved Asia. At the Karnali Technical School in Jumla, her job is to motivate both students and teachers, keeping a close eye as new ideas and methods dreamt up at special workshops are introduced to the classroom.

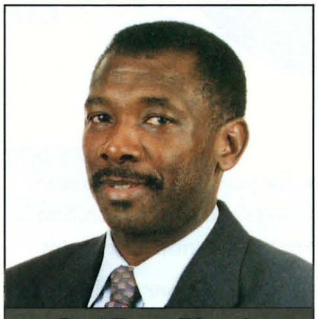
Five hours' walk away, pupils from the Karnali Community Skill Training office in Talphi gather on flat rooftops to sit exams which Katie has helped to develop. As well as being taught to read and write, adults and children in nine villages are learning to do simple maths and look after their health. For the first time, social issues such as child marriage are being raised and openly discussed; parents are given the chance to consider how sending their children to work in the fields may blight their education and their future.

Overall, KCST's ambition is to transform the negative image local people have of themselves and their village, proving to them that, irrespective of outside intervention, the possibility of change for the better is in their hands.

Please pray

- that God would give Katie both wisdom and stamina: all this activity and responsibility makes it difficult to set priorities - she feels drawn more to the village work, but wants to be sure the other projects don't end up by being neglected.
- for an increased sense of community in Jumla: it's easy enough to meet people in Jumla - every day Katie opens her door to people who will either want to sell her firewood, potatoes, or wild berries, or want her to give them clothes or even work. But getting to know them is a different matter. Please pray that Katie will make good dependable friends at home and at work.

JAMAICA



Revd Trevor Edwards
JBU

In his address to the BUGB Baptist Assembly in May, Revd Trevor Edwards called on church leaders and members alike to be, like the antidote to a society fast losing its sense of hope.

Trevor is Secretary General of the Jamaica Baptist Union and has pastored an inner city church which became the base for a far-reaching social action programme, is now Vice Chairman of the international Association for Baptist Action in Mission (ABAM) - established with the help of BMS. But, far from complacent, Trevor suggests that today's Christians are still danger of "passing by on the other side", indifferent to the injustices created by their own way of life. For example, by abolishing expensive quota systems, the World Trade Organisation brings instant ruin to small-scale producers (eg the banana growers of the Windward Islands). According to Trevor, decisions like this are an opportunity for the Church to "take risks in the name of Christ", bringing to the powerless the moral and material support they need, and challenging the powerful with creative, constructive alternatives which honour all those involved.

Please pray

- that God would continue to guide Trevor and his colleagues at JBU, making them an effective witness to his message of resurrection life.
- for an end to racism and selfishness in international trade; that the individuals and organisations concerned would recognise all people as created equal in the image of God - and provide for them accordingly.
- that the Church in the UK as in Jamaica would be generous and brave in sharing its gifts to enrich other people's lives.

Checkout

Departures (September)
Tim Lehane and Alison MacLean to Nepal
Chris and Sarah Mattock to Italy
David and Cath Meikle to Brazil

Arrivals (September)
Margaret Gibbs from Nepal
David and Sheila Brown from Brazil
Margot Bafende from Democratic Republic of Congo
John and Rena Mellor from Democratic Republic of Congo

Arrivals (October)
Derek Punchard from Brazil
David Kerrigan from Sri Lanka
Joy Knapman from Sri Lanka
Glyn and Gill Jones from Albania

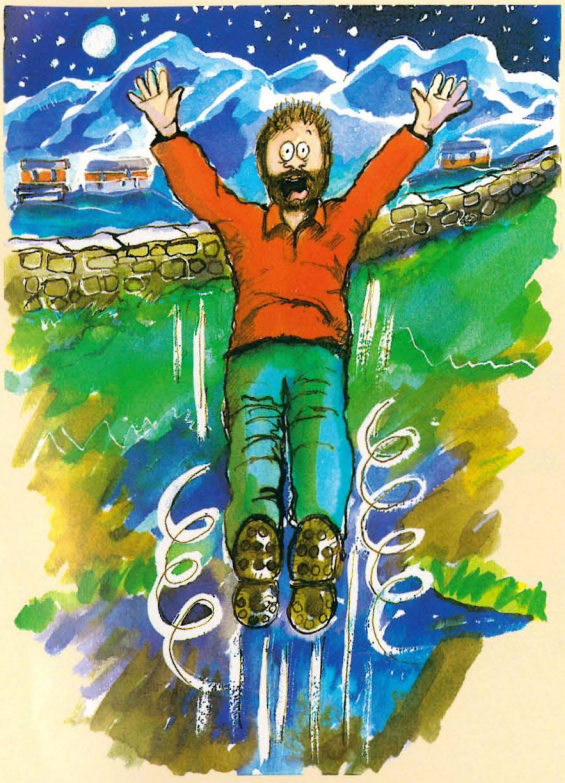
Overseas Visits
Alistair Brown to Albania and Croatia
Derek Rumbol to Democratic Republic of Congo
John Passmore to Albania, Croatia, Cyprus and France
Jim Clarke to Brazil

Corrections

From July/August *mh*, page 11,
For more information on John Corbett's book Where There is no Telephone, the correct web site address is:
http://www.reliefweb.int/library/wtint/toc.html
Page 34, Chris & Sarah Mattock's flat is in fact large, and has lots of room for visitors!
Pages 4-5 of Harvest insert, July/August *mh*
The arrows from Angola and Zaire boxes should of course have been the other way round.

Travel Tales

On top of the world



ILLUSRATION SARAH PRENTICE

I was listening to a talk recently where we were asked the question, 'Why do people climb Mt Everest?' Of course the answer is, 'Because it's there.'

I saw Everest once, from a distance during a holiday in Nepal. Among the many peaks all jostling for position one was pointed out and I was assured that it was Everest. Not for me though, mountaineering, with or without ropes or oxygen or anything else for that matter. Even if it is there, I'll let someone else go up!

JOHN PASSMORE

John Passmore is the BMS Europe Representative and was a missionary in Bangladesh for ten years.

We did however go on a more gentle trek and even then reached thirteen thousand feet which is somewhat higher than my native Dartmoor. The first day started off with a walk along a valley following the course of a dry river bed. I was just wondering where all the hills were when we hit one and the final two hours of the day seemed to be straight up. At the top of that climb was our hotel for the night. We had been told that the word hotel was not altogether an accurate description for a stone built, thatched two storey building where if we purchased a rice meal we could sleep for free in the upstairs loft, along with all the other trekkers and Nepali porters.

If the sleeping arrangements left quite a lot to be desired, the facilities were non-existent. We had become used to the early morning search for a bush in some villages in Bangladesh, but hadn't expected to be continuing that habit on holiday, especially when staying in a hotel. Add to that a daily, hot curry and you can begin to understand some of the discomfort of the holiday.

There was one night, for instance, when, armed with a torch, I ventured out and seeing a low stone wall thought the other side might be a suitable place. I vaulted the wall and . . . disappeared. I should have looked over first. I was fortunate that I landed on a path only about 20 feet down the mountain side and not in the valley bottom.

Along the route we met or passed some large organised groups. They were escorted by many porters who carried tents, tables and chairs, food and cooking utensils. We mingled with one such group, all admiring the wonderful view in the clear early morning light. Imagine our surprise when someone came up to us and announced, 'Hello, I'm Tensing.' He lost interest in us though, as soon as he discovered that we were not part of the trek organised by his tour company. Still, though I didn't pay for the privilege, I can say I've been up a mountain with probably the most famous Sherpa of them all.

The next night, we sat on our hotel veranda, replete with rice and lentils, watching busy porters erecting a tent, laying the table and cooking the evening meal. We looked on enviously as the courses were served and wondered who the two pampered young men were.

A while later, as it began to get dark, one of our group, a young female, returned to the veranda all of a quiver. Naturally we asked what was the cause of her agitation to which she replied that she was sure she had just met Richard Chamberlain. (For those whose memories don't stretch back that far, he played a young doctor in an American TV serial a bit like the forerunner to ER. He followed that with film roles such as Fr Ralph de Bricassart in 'The Thorn Birds' and the Prince in 'The Slipper and the Rose').

'Wow. What did you say to him?' we asked, thinking this was her great moment to have an in depth conversation with this famous heart throb.

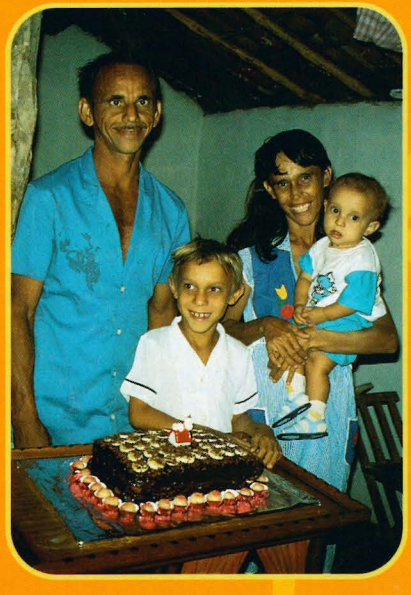
'Well, he wanted to know where the bathroom was.' 'Yes, and....' 'I told him it was over there behind those bushes!' ●

Joint Harvest Appeal 1997

The answer to long-term survival is not to pour in continuous aid. For many years you've been generously supporting the annual appeal to help people in developing countries to help themselves. This year we want to provide them with SKILLS TO SURVIVE.

LITERACY HEALTH CARE AGRICULTURE TRAINING

SKILLS to survive



There is a wide range of materials available to help you prepare for your harvest fund-raising activities:

- leaflets
- envelopes
- harvest video
- OHP acetates
- poster
- and many more!

and it's not too late to order them.

Contact Operation Agri BMM, 14 Church Road, Newbold, Rochdale, Lancs OL16 5PU. Tel 01706 526505

Operation AGRI BMM and Baptist Missionary Society Joint Harvest Appeal 1997

Registered Charities

LITERACY HEALTH CARE AGRICULTURE

November/December 1997

mb

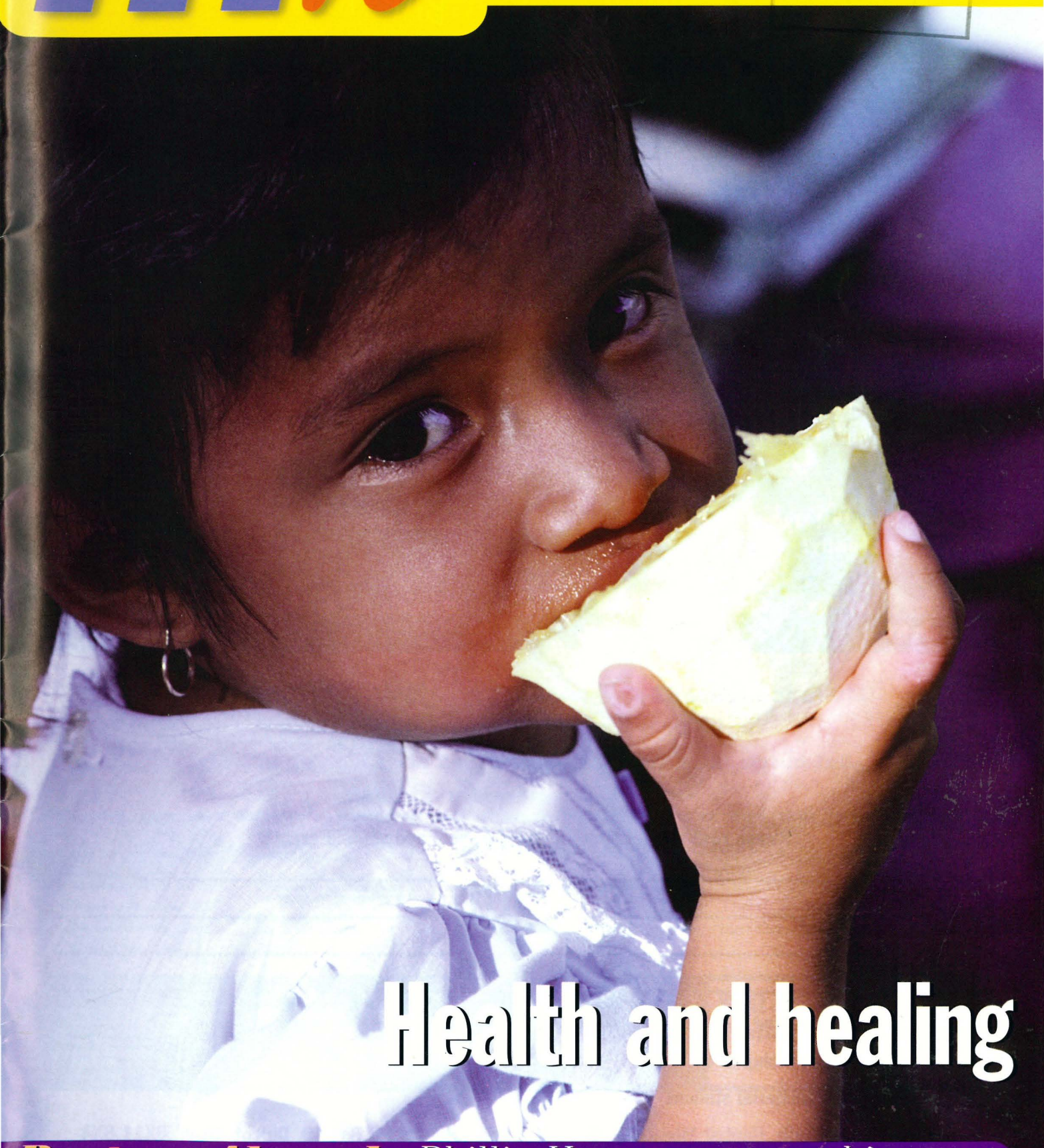
News around the world

Focus on Missy personnel

Action teams

international

Baptist Theological Seminary Library
Prague
Czech Republic



Health and healing

Pastors Abroad - Phillip Hatton retraces his steps

GRANTS

- Did you know that as a Baptist minister you could be eligible for a grant towards the cost of a sabbatical visit overseas?

- And did you know that if you are the minister of a church which has sent out BMS missionaries you, too, could be eligible for a grant to enable you to make a pastoral visit to the country where your personnel are serving?

- Did you know that students in Baptist colleges can also get grants towards an overseas visit that will relate to their future ministry?

- We won't deny there is some small print attached to these payments, but by-and-large it's common sense and hassle-free.

Want to know more?
Fill in the coupon below and send it to Andrew North at BMS.
He'll send you further details.
But hurry: the grants are limited and are taken up quickly.
Start planning now for 1998/99

Please rush me details of BMS sabbatical and student grants.

Name Revd/.....

Address.....

.....

.....**Post Code** .....

I am ❒ a minister seeking a sabbatical grant

I am ❒ a minister of a church that has sent out BMS missionaries

I am ❒ a Baptist ministerial student

Send to: Andrew North Baptist Missionary Society Baptist House PO Box 49 Didcot Oxon OX11 8XA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1997

ISSUE - HEALTH AND HEALING

contents

JAN KENDALL

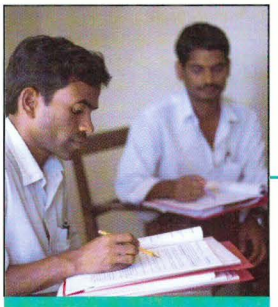
When asked about quality of life, people in this country often reply that everything will be all right if they keep in good health. Somehow, having the freedom of a healthy mind and body, not weighed down with malfunctions and defects, is a weapon against anything and everything that life throws at us.

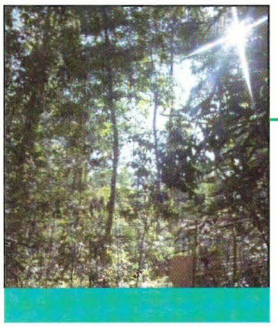
Even being able to think like that is a luxury that many millions of people cannot dream of. Being born, and surviving the first five years of life is a hurdle too great for many. Two hundred and fifty thousand children die every week worldwide from malnutrition and childhood illnesses. And if they do withstand this, there are plenty more obstacles to defeat them through childhood, teenage years and into adulthood - disease, malnutrition, lack of preventative medicine, insanitary conditions, too few doctors and nurses - the tip of an iceberg intermingling with other facts of life like unemployment, war, disasters or crop failure. The end of the sorry tale is that they are then likely to die in their 40s or 50s compared to their 70s for someone in the Western world.

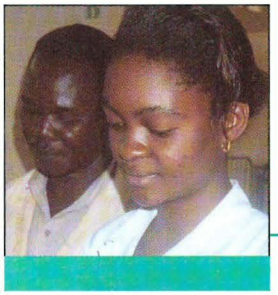
Thank God for BMS workers like Ian Smith, fighting TB in Asia - disease that has been virtually wiped out in the West, and Mary Parsons, helping young mothers and babies to survive in a corner of Brazil where up to very recently six out of 100 babies died. You can read their stories on pages 4 and 10.

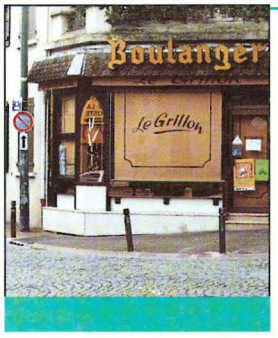
This month we say goodbye to an old friend, John Passmore, who has been writing for us for two years. John's column has been a very popular one, and has made us all laugh as we have been very glad we weren't caught in the same situations. We have had requests from all over the world to reproduce Travel Tales - so John's contribution will be sadly missed on a global scale.

Jan









FEATURES

4 **TB IN ASIA**
Good and bad news
Ian Smith recounts his challenge

6 **DYING OF TOOTHACHE**
Welcoming the dentist
Dental care in Nepal

8 **LEAVES FOR HEALING**
Natural remedies
Jenny Barrett looks at herbal treatments

10 **HOLDING THE BABY**
Mother and baby care
Mary Parsons tells of life in Brazil

NEWS

12 **BMS NEWS**
14 **WORLD NEWS**
16 **WORLD MISSION LINK**

REGULARS

18 **CENTRE SPREAD**
Missionary and doctor Steve Green

20 **OUR TOWN**
Massy, France

26 **PASTORS ABROAD**
Phillip Hatton revisits DRC

28 **TAKE TWO**
Mission file of facts, figures and background

30 **ACTION TEAMS**
Jenny Barrett asks Where are they now?

32 **MISSIONARY DIGEST**
Prayer points to support BMS colleagues

35 **JOHN PASSMORE**
The last word

COVER IMAGE

PHOTO: ©1996 PHOTODISC INC

NEXT ISSUE JAN - FEB
Justice and Peace
Caring and campaigning for a fairer world

CREDITS

General Director Alistair Brown

Managing Editor Richard Wells
Editor Jan Kendall

Regular Contributors Jenny Barrett, Alistair Brown, Owen Clark, Sam Gibson, Jan Kendall, John Passmore, Richard Wells.

Design Consultant Tom van Aurich
Art Editor Sarah Prentice

Director for Missionaries
Joy Knapman
(for enquiries about service)

Printed by Alden Colour
Oxford

Subscription for 1997 *mh* and BMS Prayer Guide are published as a complete package. £6.00 through church *mh* distributors £7.98 by direct mail (inc p&p). Six issues of *mh* with three of BMS Prayer Guide plus free Annual Review. Overseas p&p at the rate applicable.

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the BMS

© Copyright 1997
Baptist Missionary Society

ISSN 0264-1372

Missionary Herald the magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society

Address: PO Box 49, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8XA
Telephone: 01235 512077
Fax: 01235 511265
Web Site: http://www.rpc.ox.ac.uk/bms/index.htm
E-Mail, Editorial: bms_media@cin.co.uk
E-Mail, Other departments: 100626.1577@compuserve.com
Registered charity number 233782

The Good News and the Bad

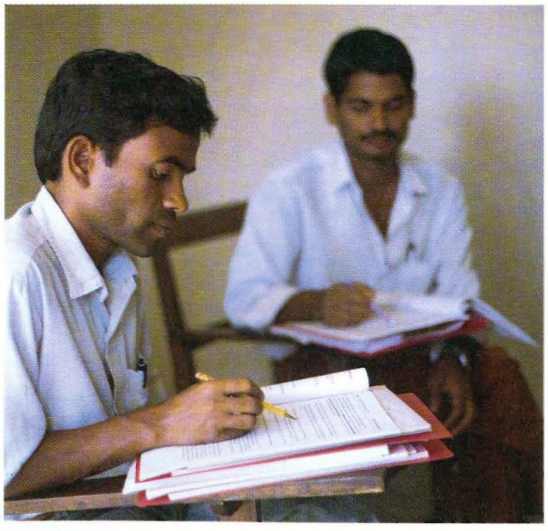
IAN SMITH TELLS ABOUT HIS WORK - FIGHTING TB

Imagine you are at the doctors. He has bad news and some good news for you. The bad news is that you have a life threatening disease. The good news is that it can be cured. But he offers you a choice. "We have two types of operation for this disease" he says. "The first is a small operation - quite easy to do, cheap, you'll be in hospital for a day or two, and I'll only need to see you once or twice after that. However, it only has a 50 per cent chance of a permanent cure." He pauses a second, and then goes on, "The second is a much larger operation - you'll be in hospital for up to two months, and I'll need to see you every month for the next six months. It's more difficult and more expensive for you , but it has a much higher chance of cure - about 85 per cent."

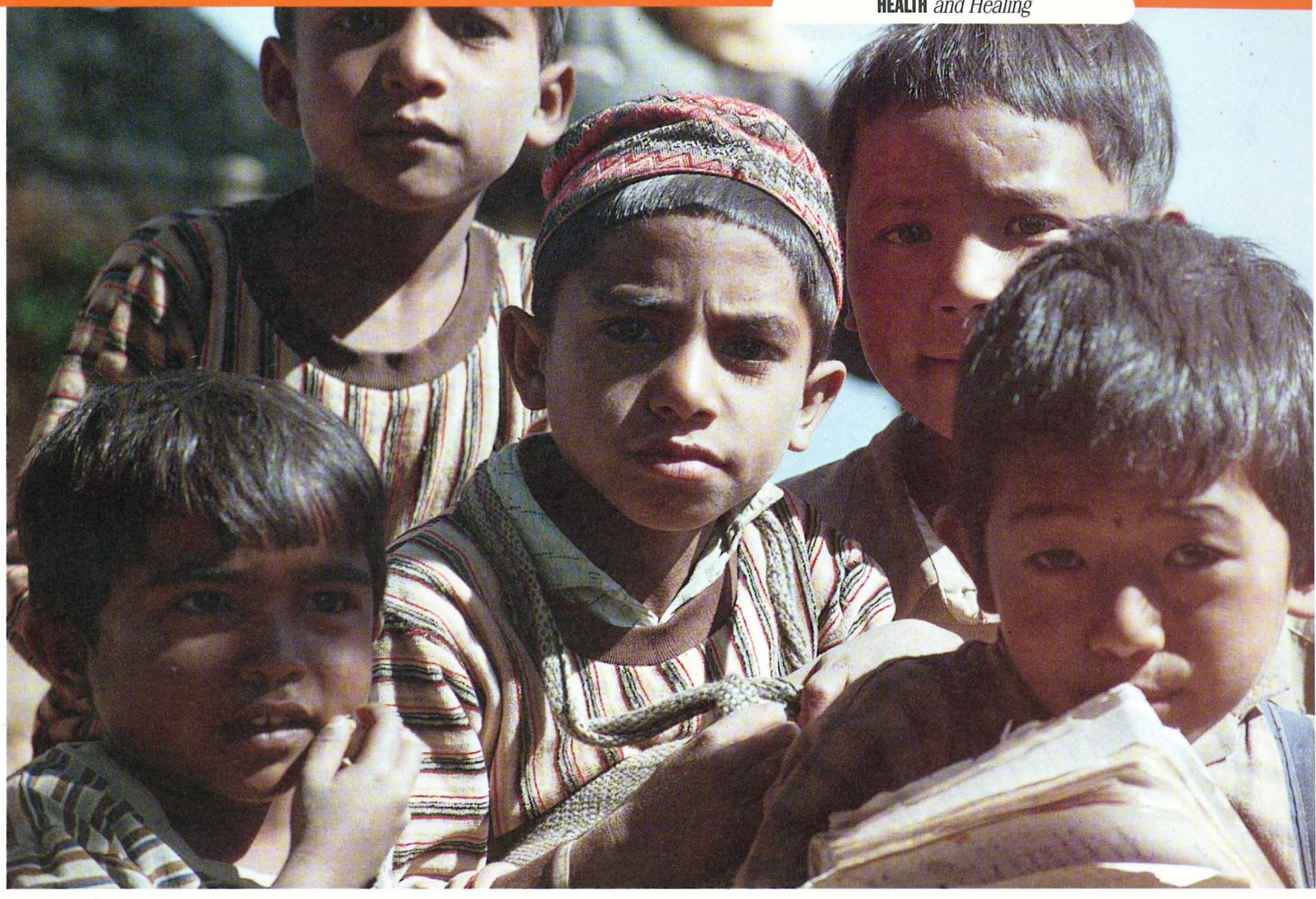
Man with TB in hospital (Thailand)

A hard choice? Not really - most of us would go for the bigger operation with the higher cure. We're willing to pay the higher cost in terms of money and inconvenience, if we can see a greater benefit in the future.

This is the kind of choice facing governments in Nepal and several other countries of Asia. TB is the devastating disease, and it threatens the lives of millions of people in the South East Asia region. Worldwide, about nine million people get TB every year, and perhaps three million die. Many of those affected are young parents - which means the whole family suffers if one parent is sick or dies. About 40 per cent of all the TB sufferers in the world can be found in the ten countries that make up the South East Asia region - which includes India, Bangladesh and Nepal. The choice for these countries is between an expensive but effective TB control programme, and an inexpensive but ineffective one. Unfortunately, many governments find it hard to look beyond the next five years, and the big investment needed now to save the lives of millions in the future is a difficult one to make, given the immediate and pressing needs of their people.



DHO training in Dhankuta, East Nepal



The strategy for controlling TB has not changed - diagnose people with infectious TB, and cure them quickly before they infect others. The old way of doing this was to give patients a month's medicines at a time, and hope they would take them for the full eight month's course of treatment. Not surprisingly, many gave up after a month or two - they were not cured, the disease came back, and many more people became infected with a type of TB which was now often resistant to the medicines used first time round. Only 50 per cent of people were cured.

The new way is called Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course or DOTS. Simply, it means making absolutely sure that everyone who starts treatment continues right to the end and stays cured! The key is to have a health worker watch the patient take their medicines every day - that's the meaning of Directly Observed Treatment. And it cures over 85 per cent of people with TB.

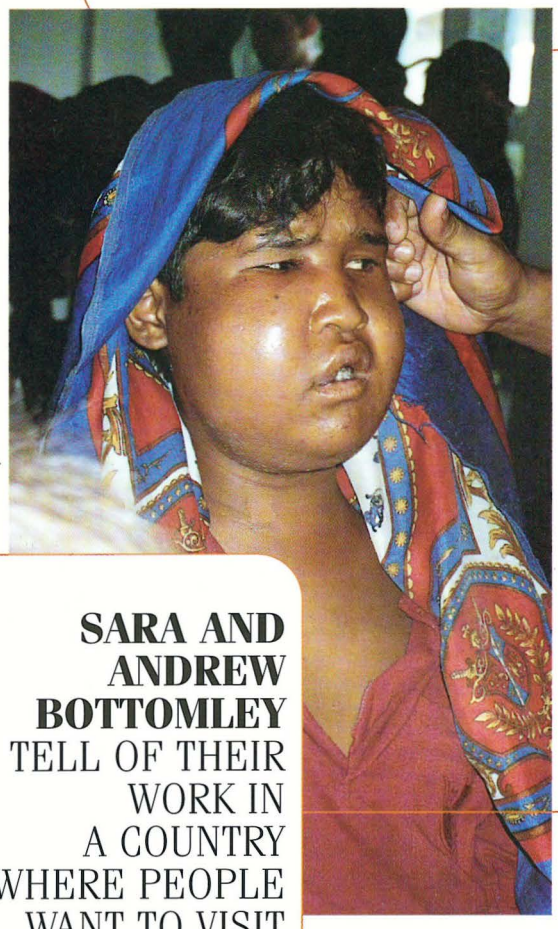
It also means having a good health care system which can accurately diagnose people with TB, and a good supply system to ensure that health posts and hospitals never run out of medicines. My job is to help health workers develop these systems for diagnosis, treatment and drug supply, and it takes me to many different and fascinating parts of Asia.

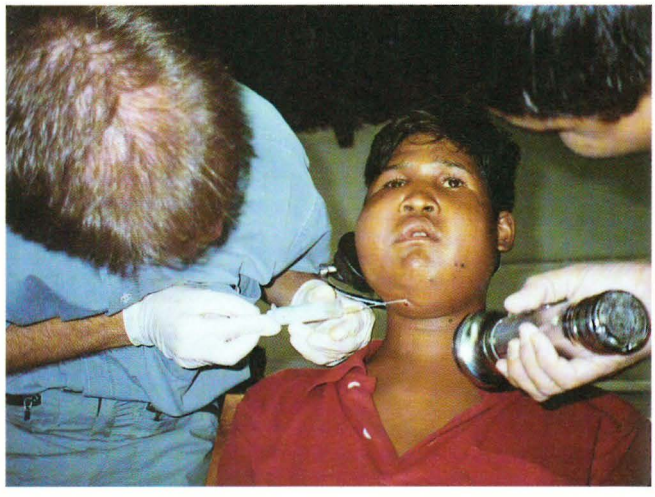
Is this mission? To answer that, I have to ask myself two questions - has God called me, and does this ministry further his kingdom. My answer is Yes to both questions – I am sure that it is what God has called me to – and I am constantly amazed at the ways he provides to enable me to fulfil my responsibilities. I am also sure that this is a way of fighting the works of Satan. "For this purpose Christ was revealed, to destroy all the works of the evil one" (1 John 3:8) – the opening lines of a well-known worship song – and our call is to follow in his footsteps. Fighting TB is just one way we have of furthering his Kingdom. ●

Thai TB poster

Ian Smith is a BMS missionary seconded to WHO via UMN

Dying of toothache





SARA AND ANDREW BOTTOMLEY TELL OF THEIR WORK IN A COUNTRY WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO VISIT THE DENTIST

PHOTOGRAPHS: SARA BOTTOMLEY

"Quickly, Andrew, come and see this poor girl!"

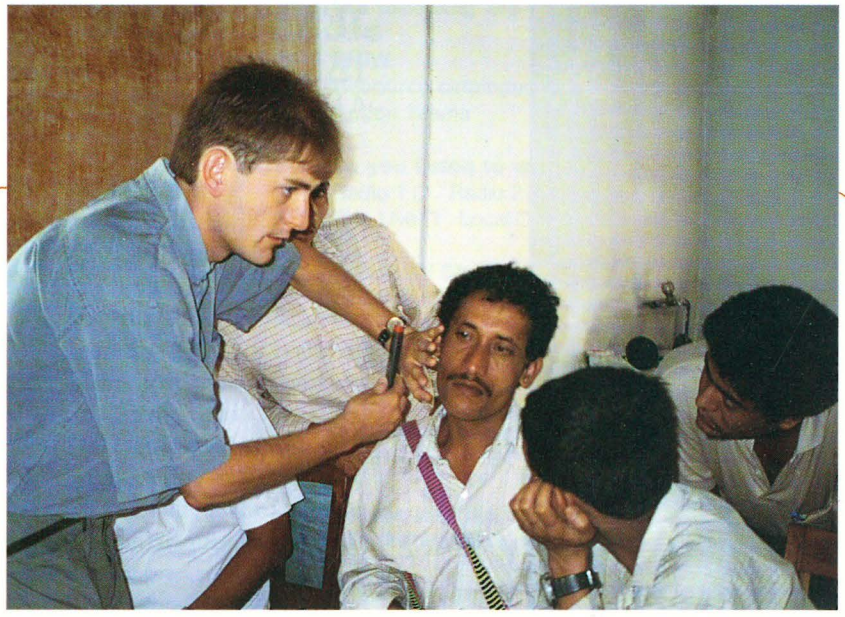
The urgent tone caused everybody in the temporary dental surgery to spin around. All eyes focused on the crooked figure leaning against the wall. Head wrapped in a scarf, it was difficult to tell whether the patient was an old man or a young girl, but from the grossly deformed face it was obvious to all that he or she was seriously ill.

Fortunately for 20-year-old Gopal, he had stumbled into Beni District Hospital on the first day of a "Health Services Partnership" (or HSP) dental camp.

Dr Andrew Bottomley, International Nepal Fellowship's dental surgeon, was running a week-long treatment and training camp and was able to give Gopal the life-saving care he needed. Gopal's abscessed tooth had become severely infected, making his face swell to double its normal size and rendering him unable to speak or breathe easily.

Sadly, Gopal's case was familiar to the trainees - village health workers who crowded close and discussed similar cases they had encountered at their health posts but had been uncertain how to treat. Andrew used the opportunity to teach the appropriate treatment and necessary surgery.

When HSP staff visit the district hospitals to conduct camps, they do not only engage in treatment. The district's health post workers, who provide frontline GP care to villages, are invited to attend for training. News of a camp travels fast, and people descend from all around needing treatment. In this way, the community's immediate and future dental needs are served as their local paramedic is trained. The three trainees at the Beni camp had already completed three of their four-week course, and were joined by others from previous visits who wanted to refresh their skills.



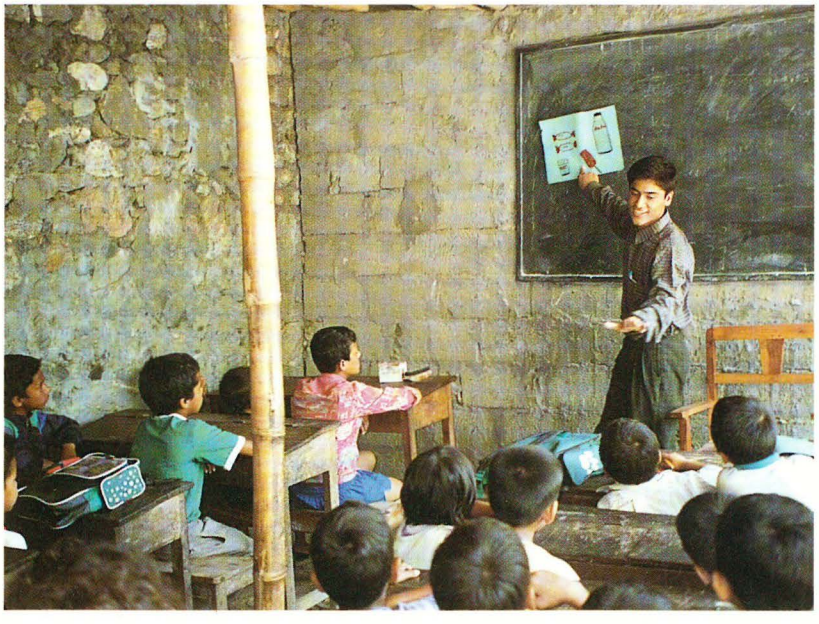
Andrew demonstrating to the trainees how to relocate the jaw after a dislocation. This was a 'special request' lecture.

at the heart of this project is a desire to share the love of Jesus with Nepalis

All of these men can now diagnose tooth problems, extract teeth and provide education for prevention.

The mass of excited people crowding around the clinic betrays the state of oral health in Nepal. Village Nepalis cannot easily leave their fields to make the long journey to a city hospital, resorting instead to their health post worker or district hospital for extractions. But district hospitals have no dentists. Community paramedical training does nothing to meet dental needs, so the HSP believes that, by training these workers to teach and administer good oral care to their community, thousands of lives can be improved.

HSP has chosen six districts to focus on. They offer doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, nurses, medical laboratory technicians and technicians to visit the hospitals serving those districts. These people are forging relationships with staff as they instill new skills, inject enthusiasm and encourage nationals to stay serving in their posts. They believe they will catch the vision for making their hospitals function and requests for training now exceed their capacity to provide!



Trainee Laxman teaching local children how to look after their teeth

The Health Services Partnership project represents the International Nepal Fellowship's response to the needs of the Nepali national health service which operates through a referral chain from health post to regional hospital. Isolated district hospitals and their satellite health posts are struggling against numerous problems. Poorly paid doctors prefer to work in the cities where they can supplement their income through private practice, leaving many district hospitals doctorless and staff demoralised for long periods. Water and meagre supplies of medicines usually have to be carried in, after a long wait! Unreliable electrical supply and fair wear and tear mean damaged or underused equipment. Hospital technicians often have few skills or the tools necessary for even simple repairs. The technical branch of HSP encourages maintenance staff to "build up broken things", teaching to care and repair by providing basic tool kits.

But at the heart of this project is a desire to share the love of Jesus with Nepalis. As well as having sick bodies many patients have sick hearts and yearn to know God's love. ●

Sara and Andrew Bottomley are both working in Nepal with the International Nepal Fellowship

"And the leaves are for the healing of the nations"

JENNY BARRETT TAKES A LOOK AT HERBALISM AROUND THE WORLD

Chronic shortages of doctors and medicines mean that most people in developing countries must look to herbalists and other traditional practitioners to satisfy their primary health care needs. Most Chinese hospitals have herbal dispensaries, and in India the use of herbal drugs is taken for granted. In 1996, there were ten times as many traditional practitioners as medical doctors in Ghana, with only one doctor for every 20,000 people. Sudan and Swaziland could boast one medical doctor per 10,000 population, and yet there were 100 times more practitioners offering help by traditional methods.

Natural medicine got its start in Jamaica during the 18th century, when slaves brought over from Africa adapted their traditional techniques to suit the plants and trees of the Caribbean. Now some 50 per cent of the 2.5 million population use herbs - mostly because they cannot afford other forms of treatment. In rural areas of the island, more and more people are growing their own herbs or scouring the roadside for medicinal plants - even the bark of the cashew tree has been known to help control diabetes. A herbal doctor in Stony Hill, St Andrew claims she can cure anything from venereal diseases to the common cold - for a fraction of the US$30 Jamaicans would normally pay if they visited a doctor. Medicines to control asthma or diabetes can cost up to $100 a month - the minimum wage in Jamaica where unemployment runs at over 16 per cent.

According to BMS missionary Gwen Hunter, the Democratic Republic of Congo is rich in herbs - and herbalists. Some years back a doctor who worked at Kimpese examined 800 different plants used in medical treatment by herbalists in his area - and started using the 300 he found of use in his own practice.

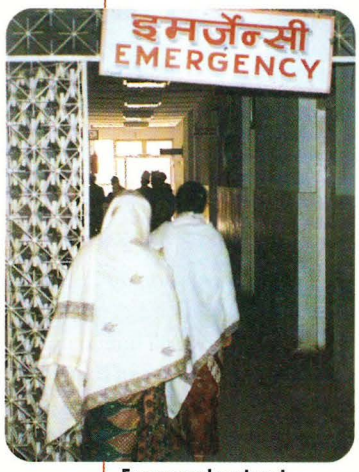
Gwen remembers several years ago driving to Kinshasa with a number of students: "One of them became travel sick and asked me to stop the car, whereupon she descended, ran over to a nearby tree, pulled off a handful of leaves, chewed them and then boarded the vehicle and we went on with her in a good state of health. These leaves probably contained an antispasmodic or maybe an antiemetic."

"In our area" reports Gwen, "plants are used to treat (successfully) worms, amoebic dysentery, liver problems, malaria, sickness, diarrhoea, certain heart conditions and other ailments. Unfortunately herbalists (medicine men) often keep their knowledge to themselves and perhaps pass it on to members of their family who work with them. There is very little written down and well known herbalists who have built up their treatment centre and the confidence of the local population have died, taking all their expertise to the grave with them."

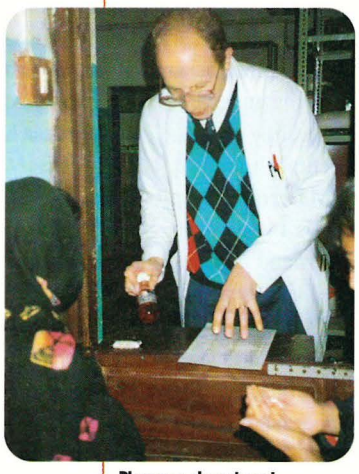
The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that, around the world, herbalism is three to four times more commonly practised than conventional medicine. To integrate the two, on a scientific basis, is the task of WHO's Traditional Medicine Programme - and, according to Gwen, things are changing: "There is a move afoot for doctors and pharmacists to work more closely together with the local herbalists in each area, sharing information and know how. It is much cheaper for the patient and, with the sources being regular and reliable, the availability would be much improved." ●

Childbirth in Nepal

A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE TOLD BY
KATRINA BUTTERWORTH, DOCTOR
AND BMS MISSIONARY



Emergency department, Western Regional Hospital, Nepal



Pharmacy department, Tansen Hospital, Nepal

Nurse with 'drug' trolley at Amp Pipal Hospital, Nepal

At 4.00 am after a night kept sleepless by fighting off mosquitoes and occasional mild contractions, I was transferred from the midwife-led birthing centre to the labour ward. After a few moments of horror when I was told to sit on a bed in a corridor while my husband, Martin, was forbidden even to walk through the doors, I was shown into a side room with two other ladies. Perhaps I should say two other patients, as each of them had a friend sleeping on the floor beside them. In Nepal, midwives and nurses do technical work and much of what we in Britain think of as nursing care is done by relatives. As Martin was my only relative in Nepal a special concession was made to let him sit with me. Men are not usually allowed on the labour ward. It was an answer to prayer that Martin was allowed to stay with me throughout.

When nothing had happened by 7.00 am, Martin went home to fetch breakfast. Meals are the responsibility of relatives as only medical care is provided by the hospital. People bring in their own paraffin stoves to make cups of tea and cook food. Martin not being the most wonderful cook in the world, I felt especially blessed by the thoughtfulness and care of both Nepali and expatriate friends who sent in supplies throughout my hospital stay.

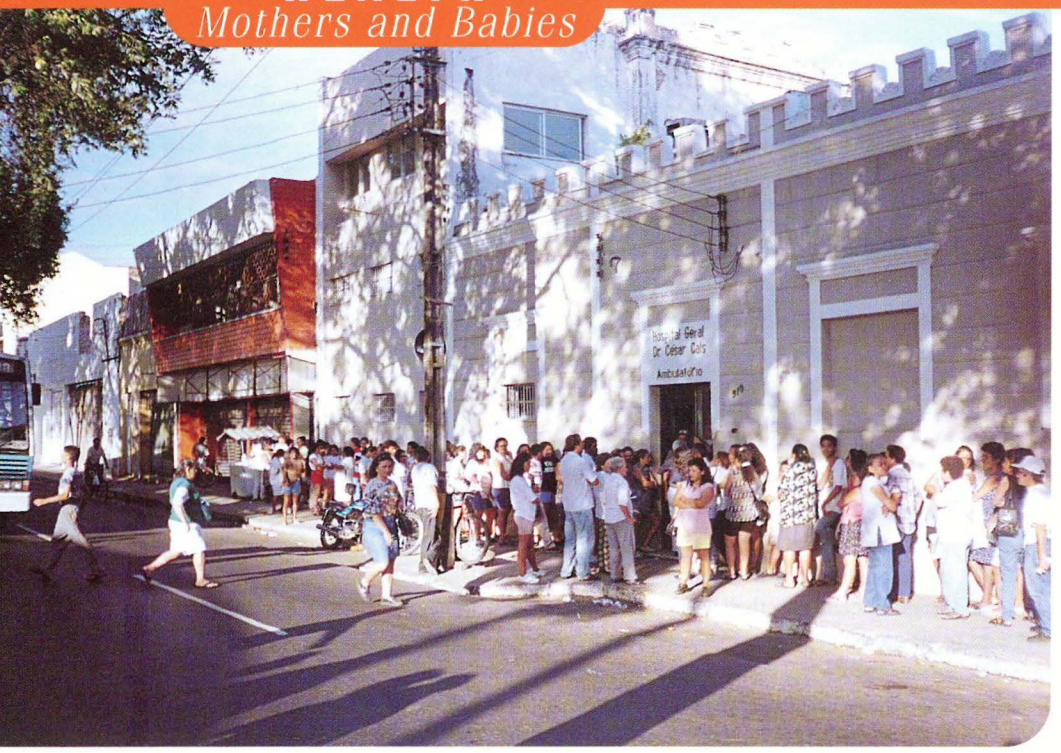
The doctor's round was interesting, being on the receiving end for a change. Nepali staff, both doctors and midwives, I found to be extremely competent but no-one ever explained anything to me. As a doctor myself I could work out what was going on most of the time and luckily my Nepali is sufficient to ask questions and understand the answers. In Nepal medical professionals are all seeing and all knowing; patients just do as they're told.

I was given some medicine to induce labour, as my waters had broken the day before and nothing else had happened. Martin was given a form to go down and get replacement medicines. This entailed queuing at the cashiers to pay, then queuing at the pharmacy to collect the medicine. Every investigation done or medication received while in hospital needs to be paid for by the patient before leaving.

Things happened fairly quickly after that. I already knew that the only pain relief available for labour in Nepal was a drug called pethidine. However, when I felt I needed it my request was met by a shrug of the shoulders and the reply there was no doctor to sign the authorisation. Not very helpful! Fortunately, five minutes later I started to push and after a total labour of just seven hours our daughter, Ruth Shanti, was born.

Childbirth in Nepal was certainly an experience. Both Martin and I felt surrounded by prayer and very aware of God's presence throughout. I feel Ruth's birth has given me a much deeper understanding of Nepali culture and local expectations of the medical system. ●

Katrina Butterworth first arrived in Nepal in January 1997. She works alongside her husband, Martin, who is a mechanical engineer.



Holding the baby

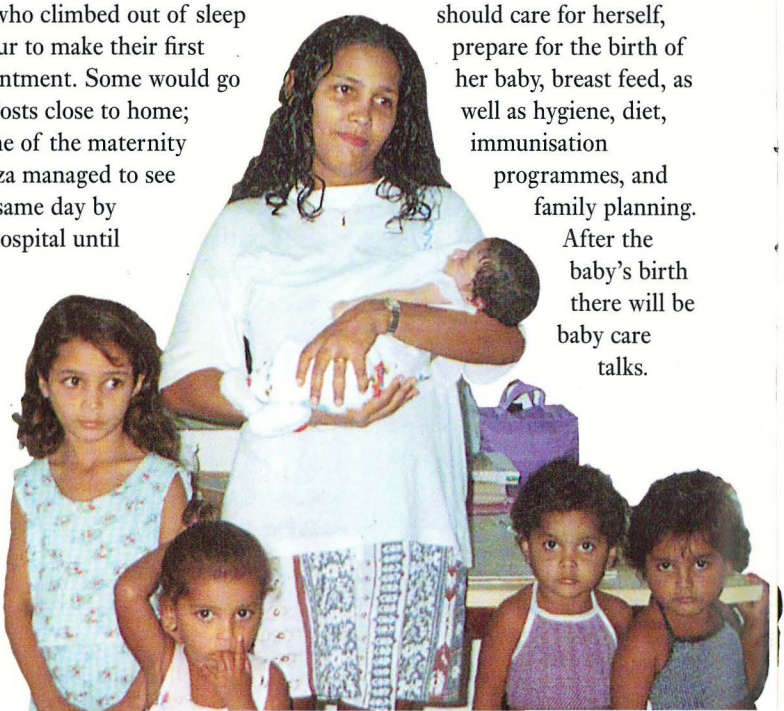
MARY PARSONS TELLS OF A SPECIAL PROJECT THAT IS SAVING THE LIVES OF MOTHERS AND BABIES IN NORTH-EASTERN BRAZIL

The early morning silence is shattered by a merciless ringing of the alarm clock. 3.00 am. Tereza sleepily climbed out of her hammock as she remembered the reason for waking at this unsociable hour. She had to visit the maternity hospital. An early start was necessary to get a place in the queue. 4.00 am and Tereza was in line at the hospital ready to book an antenatal appointment. The clinic staff opened the doors at 6.30 am. There were about 15 people in front of Tereza. "Will I be seen today?" she wondered.

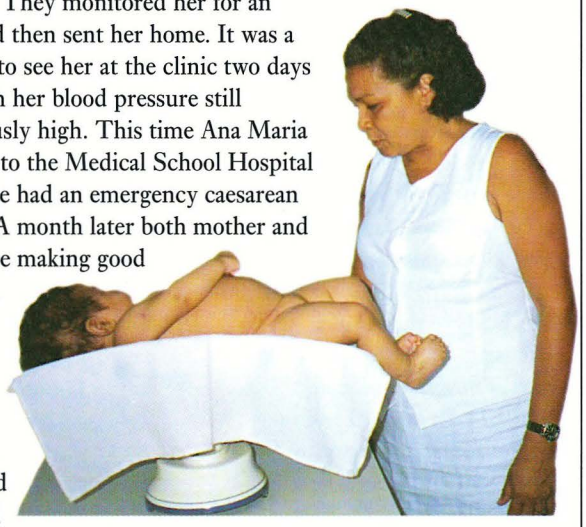
Tereza is one of hundreds of women all over the city of Fortaleza in north-eastern Brazil who climbed out of sleep at this early hour to make their first antenatal appointment. Some would go to the Health Posts close to home; others chose one of the maternity hospitals. Tereza managed to see the doctor the same day by staying at the hospital until 3.00 pm.

It was fortunate for her that she lived close to the Save the Child Project (PSAC) run by the Baptist Hospital of Fortaleza. She had appeared at PSAC a week previously with a scan result that revealed she had a twin pregnancy. The Baptist hospital has no maternity unit. She was therefore advised to go to the Medical School Maternity Hospital, because of the special circumstances of her pregnancy. She will continue at PSAC for routine appointments while using backup care from the Maternity Hospital.

Debora is 14 years old. She is underweight and has anaemia; factors which put Debora and her unborn baby into a high risk category. The PSAC antenatal clinics and classes provide information on how she should care for herself, prepare for the birth of her baby, breast feed, as well as hygiene, diet, immunisation programmes, and family planning. After the baby's birth there will be baby care talks.



Ana Maria booked at the PSAC early in her pregnancy. She began to show signs of pre-eclampsia - a condition which, if ignored could put mother and baby at risk; and so careful monitoring of her blood pressure was necessary. At the end of her pregnancy her blood pressure was high, and she was referred to hospital. They monitored her for an hour, and then sent her home. It was a surprise to see her at the clinic two days later with her blood pressure still dangerously high. This time Ana Maria was sent to the Medical School Hospital where she had an emergency caesarean section. A month later both mother and baby were making good progress. Ana Maria will attend the baby clinic and postnatal classes until her baby is six months old.



The work began in 1989, at a time when the infant mortality rate in Brazil was 61 per 1,000 live births, with the state of Ceará, which is where Fortaleza is located, higher than the national average. By 1996 that rate was 46 per 1,000 live births.

Five thousand, three hundred and fifty women have benefitted from the care and classes offered through the Save the Child Project - expressing the love of God in a practical way. ●

Mary Parsons is a nurse, working with the BMS in Fortaleza.

Mike Pilavachi

Choices - decisions

The hunt is on today for self-fulfilment and for self-expression. There are courses everywhere on "discovering your gifts", "maximising your potential" and "finding the real you". This quest has found its way into the Church; we have seminars on "Free to be", conferences on discovering our spiritual gifts and counselling to help us be all we were meant to be. There is nothing wrong with any of these emphases, as long as they do not become ends in themselves. For the Christian, to discover my spiritual gifts is to discover how I am called to serve. To divorce the quest for self-discovery from the quest for service is to retreat into self-centred introspection which leads to spiritual death. It is when I lose my life that I find it. My identity is not in my abilities but in my position in the family of God as a child of God. This is practically worked out by the way I serve others. Spiritual gifts are not badges we wear or trophies in a cupboard, but tools for us to use.

I write this the day after returning from a youth camp in the north east of England, attended by over 1,000 young people. I saw much which encouraged me there but the biggest encouragement came from a conversation with a young man of seventeen. I asked him in passing what he planned to do with his life. He replied without hesitation "Be a missionary!". He then explained that after A levels he planned to go to university to study structural engineering in order to "build bridges and things" in the third world. I asked him how long he had felt like this and he told me it had been for over a year. In fact, this had been the basis for his A level choices. This is how it should be for all God's people, not only for those who use their medical gifts to serve the Lord by serving the poor in the third world, but for each one of us.

> **"Your attitude should be like that of Christ Jesus, who did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant . . ."**
>
> **Philippians 2:5-7**

Mike Pilavachi heads up the Soul Survivor team and pastors a congregation in Watford specially aimed at reaching young people.

Project Updates

Arise and Build! Project 96

Raising money for church planting and evangelism in Zimbabwe.

As at the end of July 97 the total raised was £21,444.63.

PROJECT 97 a piece of the ACTION

Raising money to support the work of Action Teams.

As at the end of July 97 the total raised was £3,396.40.

Second couple leave for Portugal

Following swiftly on the heels of Kevin and Linda Donaghy, who with their daughter Anna left the UK to prepare for church planting work in Portugal in the summer, BMS missionaries Keith and Barbara Hodges have also arrived in Portugal.

Keith and Barbara previously spent 26 years working in different parts of Brazil. After a period of reorientation their basic ministry will be teaching in the Baptist Seminary at Queluz, a city with 80,000 people, about ten miles west of Lisbon.

News

Landslide, Mizoram

BMS Relief Fund makes two new grants

The BMS Relief Fund has recently made two grants to help relieve suffering and distress in areas of Asia devastated by tornadoes and floods.

The first grant of £5,000 was made to the Baptist Church of Mizoram Relief and Development Department to help with medical and food aid following continuous heavy rainfall, landslides and floods. These destroyed many villages and left thousands of people homeless. The flooding has also contributed to the spread of diarrhoea and malaria.

Tornado damage, Bangladesh

The second grant of £18,071 will help relief work in the aftermath of tornadoes and cyclones which hit Bangladesh earlier this year. The money will be used to help repair a school and houses for at least 250 families, and will help with the sinking of a well.

The BMS Relief Fund is able to respond quickly to requests such as these from partner bodies when donations to the Fund have previously been received. For more information speak to BMS Resources Assistant Rob Vaines on 01235 512077, and ask for the Relief Fund leaflet and gift envelopes.

Would you take the risk?

Take the Risk

BMS will be coming to a place near you during the 98 tour!
Will you take the risk?
See Jan mh for more details...

Former missionaries reunite

Eighty seven former BMS missionaries who had served in all parts of the world met in June for a Reunion Weekend at Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire.

Former Brazilian missionary Boyd Williams spoke of his reluctance to stay in the UK after returning

News in Brief

from Brazil, and how he had a change of heart as a world of nationalities, needs and potential came to his church in Southall.

Newest former missionary Valerie Hamilton gave news of the church in Bangladesh, particularly the work of Sunday Schools.

During the course of the weekend two offerings were taken for BMS work: £292 was given for general work, and £312 for the BMS Relief Fund.

The Reunion was organised by Neil and Marjorie McVicar, former missionaries in Bangladesh.

BMS supports Bulgaria

The BMS has made a grant of £18,740 to Baptists in Bulgaria to help support pastors in their work.

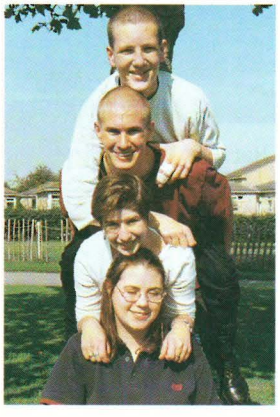
Bulgaria, at this time, faces a deep economic crisis, but churches are growing. Fifty three people were baptised in just two services in Sofia during one month in the summer. Theo Angelov, President of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria reports that in the church at Sliven, which was only planted six years ago, he baptised 18 new believers; and 65 new Christians have been baptised in another church consisting of Turks and former Muslims.

Although the membership of the Bulgarian Baptist Union has grown by around 15 per cent in a matter of months, many places still do not have a pastor. The pastors that there are are only paid the equivalent of US $60 to $70 per month,which will not even pay their heating bills in winter.

STOP PRESS:

BMS hits your screen in December, joining forces with the BBC for a Christmas Songs of Praise special. The theme of the programme will be "People carrying Christ's love to the poorest children in the world" and will feature the BMS 28:19 India Team Sarah, Louise, Jonathan and Dave. It will be broadcast on 7 December, and will be shown to approx six million viewers in the UK plus others in Europe and across the world via the BBC Select Cable Channel. Apply now for tickets for the UK recording to be held on 23 November at Finsbury Park. Ring Judith Gregory, BBC Religious Programmer on 0161 244 3258.

Action Teams



The 1997/98 Action Teams will be overseas, working with BMS missionaries and partner churches by the time you read this. This year teams have gone to Brazil, Zimbabwe, France, Italy, India, Thailand and Portugal, and one team is working in the UK.

If you are interested in having an Action Team come to your church on their return next year, please contact your BMS Co-ordinator who is booking their tour.

Baptist House News

Welcome to

Katrina Dando

After a long time of searching on the part of BMS Katrina Dando has been appointed as Publicity Manager. Katrina comes from a background of business studies and marketing, and previously worked as Business Development Manager for Smith and Nephew in Birmingham.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the team," she said, "and together taking BMS into the 21st century. That may require some changes, but if BMS is to grow and remain at the forefront of mission, it has to be accessible to the people who will take it forward into the next century.

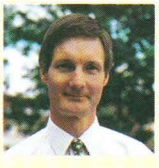
"I'm excited about what God has planned for BMS and how he will use the skills and gifts he has given me for this purpose."

Carolyn Cole

Carolyn started her new job as Volunteer Co-ordinator by jumping in at the deep end. On her first day, after a short induction at Didcot, she travelled to North Wales to take part in residential training for the 1997/98 Action Teams. She is a member of Gorsley Chapel, trained at All Nations Christian College, and has worked overseas with Latin Link and YWAM. Her responsibilities will include BMS volunteers as well as the Action Teams.

Fiona Pimlott

Fiona is the new Youth and Children's Co-ordinator, and comes to BMS from CMS, where she was Events Administrator for the Education and Training Team. Her work will include responsibility for the children's WOW programme, including WOW magazine, the WOW fund-raising project, children's Action Days, youth roadshows and all other youth activities.



Stephen Fisher

Stephen has taken up the newly created position of Receipting and Records Supervisor in the Department of Finance and Administration. Stephen was previously Regional Co-ordinator for Workable, a charity providing employment for the disabled, and has also been a Personnel Business Manager at Barclays Bank.

Kathy Kavanagh

Kathy is the new secretary to the Missionary Support Manager. She previously worked for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation both as a secretary and in community development, and for the Open University. In her spare time she helps run a Crusader's Youth Club with her husband.

BMS news

Azerbaijan

Karl Heinz Walter, General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation, has written a letter of protest to President Heidar Aliev of Azerbaijan following a report that Pastor Zaur Balaev and a deacon from Aliabad BaptistChurch, Azerbaijan had been arrested. It is alleged that the two men had been imprisoned solely because of their responsible positions within the Baptist Church. (EPBS)

Argentina

Bishop Federico J Pagura, former head of the Methodist Church in Argentina has been presented with the second annual human rights award of the U.S. National Council of Churches, for his "untiring efforts" in defence of human rights throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. At the award presentation it was said of him, "He is a visionary and a poet; a humble man who has the capacity of building bridges for dialogue without abandoning the firmness of his convictions." (ENIB)

World Baptists

The latest statistics from the Baptist World Alliance show that worldwide the number of Baptists total 41,730,511 worshipping in 157,117 churches. European Baptists had a total of 10,592 churches and 774,235 members. (EBPS)

Belgium

Following the General Secretary of the Belgian Baptist Union Samuel Verhaeghe's direct appeal for the discrimination against Belgian Baptists to end, the Belgian government has agreed that the BBU become a member of the United Protestant Church and as such be recognised by the government.

Guam

Trans World Radio personnel, whose main office, studio and medium-wave station are located in Guam, only one and a half miles from the crash site of Korean Airlines KA801aeroplane, unexpectedly found themselves involved in events following the crash. Their office became a temporary counselling site for rescue workers and a dropping-off point for supplies. They also handed out meals and helped family members who had come to the crash site to view the scene. (TWR)

News in Brief

News

Jose Perez proudly showing his new limbs

Sealegs helps cripples stand proud again

Although the fighting ended years ago, Nicaragua still has thousands of landmines littering the countryside, and regularly claiming victims among field workers and children at play.

PHOTOGRAPHS: MERCY SHIPS, TEXAS

Above: Mobile clinic adjacent to Teaching Hospital in Leon, Nigaragua

Right: Prosthetist Larry Jones shaping a limb in the clinic

But a pioneering rehabilitation programme called Operation Sea Legs has brought hope and a new life to affected adults and children, previously shunned and unable to work after losing lower limbs. They have been fitted with free new false legs and feet in a mobile prosthetics unit created by Mercy Ships, Youth With A Mission's maritime division.

Around 100 amputees have been fitted with new lower limbs from the high tech unit - housed in a converted 40 ft container in the city of Leon. The prosthetics are fitted for around $325 each, a tenth of the typical cost in the United States.

Among those helped in the Operation Sea Legs programme was ten-year-old Jose Perez, who lost both his feet to an exploding landmine. Relatives made a 13-hour journey with the boy to see if the Mercy Ships team could help him. Another patient was a young girl who had been reduced to begging in the streets of Managua, after she was blown up and crippled.

The arrival of the portable unit marked the end of a seven year project for prosthetist Paul Moehring, a former dental lab technician, who oversaw the development of the $280,000 custom-designed and equipped centre. It has its own self-contained clinic, design studio and fitting room and is equipped with computer-aided design equipment, a vertical lathe and an industrial oven for producing on-the-spot tailor-made limbs within a few hours.

Whilst waiting at the clinic patients are shown the Jesus film on video, and several of them have become Christians. The unit will stay for another six months in Leon and will then be shipped to other parts of Central America. (YWAM)

JETS takes off

The Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary (JETS) is the only officially registered interdenominational theological seminary in the Arab world. It was registered earlier this year, with its papers officially signed by the Jordanian Minister of Culture. And the story of how the vision of one man, Imad N Shehadeh, brought this seminary into being has been hailed as a miracle. Dr Shehadeh is pastor of a Baptist church in Amman, Jordan as well as Founder and President of the Seminary. He was born into a Palestinian Greek Orthodox family, and studied medicine in the United States where he became a converted Christian. He felt a call into ministry and went back to Jordan after his Bachelor degrees, to work with Campus Crusade for Christ for five years. Dr Shehadeh was convinced that the deepest need in the Middle East was educated leadership, and so he did the necessary academic work to fulfil his vision of founding a seminary in Jordan.

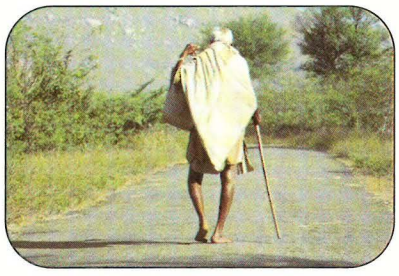
In 1990, along with a couple of other people, he sought permission from the government to run such a seminary. Together they started an unregistered school in 1992, but this was closed by the government. In 1994 he started teaching courses in a Baptist church, thinking that inside the church he would be allowed to train Christian leadership. But the Jordanian authorities said: "You are not doing church work", and closed it down.

"One of the officials told me not to even dream of getting approval for a seminary in a Muslim country," Dr Shehadeh said, "And the Jordanian evangelical church leadership asked me to forget the idea. This was one of the worst moments on the way."

But then a change in the government leadership came about, and the seminary was allowed to register. The last problem that the Minister of Culture raised was that in his view one thing was missing from the Constitution and Bylaws. He called it 'interfaith dialogue' which meant allowing Muslims to sit in the same classes and receive the same training that Christians would receive. "To him it was an intellectual endeavour", said Dr Shehadeh, "to us it was permission to train Muslim converts in serving the Saviour" and added, "All in all we got everything we dreamed of, and more."

JETS is supported by five evangelical denominations in Jordan, including The Baptist Convention. In 1997, 77 students studied there, 32 of them women. (EBPS)

Alistair Brown



Unique and precious?

An old villager hobbles along a road in rural south India. His white hair, ragged clothing, bare feet, bowed legs and stick show his age and poverty. His life has been quiet - he's raised his children, grown his crops, and never travelled more than ten miles from his home. Yet it's also been eventful. He's known children dying, terrible storms, failed crops, desperate hunger.

Apart from immediate family, no-one's ever cared much for this old man. Why should they? He's just one of hundreds of millions.

Christians see him, though, as a unique, loved child of God. So he matters, doesn't he? He's worth our time, our money, our care, our gospel, isn't he? Or are those words more fine theory than reality? So far that man hasn't had any Christian's time, money, care or gospel. Nor have the other hundreds of millions. How much he and they matter to us isn't a matter of theory, it's a matter of action.

Sorrow over "great suffering" opens doors for friendship

There are no known Christians among the 47,000 Tartars in the Ukraine - descendants of the White Horde, an offshoot of Genghis Khan's army that swept across Asia and Europe. Settling in the Crimea they mixed with the Turks from whom they adopted Islam and much of their culture.

But an opportunity has now arisen to start Bible discussion groups among Tartars after Youth With A Mission worker Sasha Karabin publicly expressed his regret for the 1944 deportation of thousands of Tartars from Russia, over half of whom died on their way to Siberia or Central Asia. Karabin, the Ukrainian nephew of two KGB officers serving at the time of the mass relocation, addressed an annual rally in the Black Sea port city of Yalta, famous for the 1945 meeting of Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt at the end of World War Two, and asked for the people's forgiveness for what had happened.

"It's had a very positive effect in building relationships with Tartar people in the area," said Jerry Perkins, YWAM ministry director in Yalta. "No one has ever apologised for the great suffering the Tartars have endured. Just the small act of hearing your former enemy say, 'I was wrong and I'm sorry' has a way of defusing decades of hatred and division."

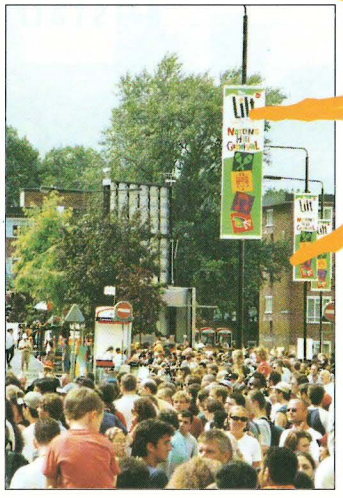
The YWAM team have been offered the use of a library in a nearby town for discussions about the Bible and the Koran, and given the use of a cafe frequented by members of the Tartar community to present the gospel through music and drama. (YWAM)

YWAM

Annual Rally in Yalta commemorating the 1944 deportation of Tartars from Russia

WORLD news

PHOTOGRAPHS: VIZ-A-VIZ



The party never stops

Members of Westbourne Park Baptist Church and summer evangelism project 'One in a Million' co-ordinated by Viz-A-Viz joined forces over the August Bank Holiday weekend to reach out to people coming to London for the Notting Hill Carnival.

Thousands of people visited Westbourne Grove and Westbourne Park Baptist Church over the weekend to join in the fun with children's entertainment, face painting, live music, theatre and free use of toilets!

Prior to the event the team had received training in all aspects of the carnival from practical workshops to One to One evangelism training.

"The Carnival is a unique opportunity for evangelism" said Dennis Pethers of Viz-A-Viz. "Not only do we have a ready-made crowd, but people have time to talk and are prepared to not only enjoy the performance, but consider what we are doing it for."

The evening events, called "The Party Never Stops", took place after the carnival, and provided an opportunity for people of all ages to join in with the celebrations and to be challenged with the gospel.

99 not out

BMS Birthday Scheme secretaries come and go, but Winnie Terry of Eythorne Baptist Church, Kent probably holds the record for being the oldest Birthday Scheme secretary in the country.

At the age of 99 she still proudly orders 60 birthday cards and gift envelopes at a time, as she has been doing for the last 25 years. She took on the role when the then pastor's wife said to her one day, "There you are Miss Terry; you'd make a good secretary" and then promptly handed her the Birthday Scheme register.

Winnie says that until then she had not been particularly interested in mission, but that moment marked the beginning of her interest in and support for BMS and mission in general.

However Winnie now believes it is time for her to hand the register on to someone else, and she will be retiring at the end of the year.

Rain dashes hopes for cross Wales walk

Revd Haydn Davies, minister of the Maesyrhelem group of churches based in Llanbadarn Fynydd, had plans to walk across Wales to raise money for BMS and for electrical repairs on a local manse.

The day began for the walkers at 2.00 am, and by 4.00 am they had been bussed to the start at Borth on the Welsh coast. But the rain came down, and continued to fall. Every walker was soaked through. At one point a stream across the path was too wide to jump over, and so everyone waded through it - with water up to their knees. Because of the rain the walk had to be called off before they reached Plynlimon. Haydn Davies only walked 18 of the scheduled 45 miles, but still managed to raise £575, of which £287.50 has been sent to BMS to support the group's PIPS project.

Sketty isn't scatty about Globetrotter Project

The children of Sketty Baptist Church, Swansea raised £50 for the BMS Globetrotter project by making and selling bookmarks and biscuits as part of their Sunday School Anniversary celebrations.

Norfolk church gets new members on board for mission

Fakenham Baptist Church are keen to introduce their new members to all aspects of church life and witness as early as possible. That is why the Missionary Secretary telephones BMS regularly for literature to put into the new members' packs. If you would like more information on BMS for new church members contact Rob Vaines, BMS Resources Assistant on 01235 512077.

Inspiration, motivation, ideas, news on world mission for churches

ission Link

Dates for your Diary

Events and Meetings

Tuesday 10 November
Women's Missionary Fellowship, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, Glasgow
Contact Jan Watson 0141 882 1201

Saturday 15 November
Havering and Dagenham BMS Support Group Autumn Meeting
Contact Robert Green 01708 227261

Merseyside BMS Autumn Meeting, St Helen's Baptist Church
Contact Merrill Morgan 0151256 0209

Wednesday 19 November
Gwent WMS Autumn Meeting, Hanbury Baptist Church, Bargoed
Contact Sylvia Hamer 01495 225932

Friday - Saturday 21-22 November
"RSVP" Mission Event, Findlay Memorial Church, Glasgow
Contact Derek Clark 0141 775 1201

Wednesday 3 December
Women's Prayer Fellowship, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, Glasgow
Contact Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Monday 8 December
Women's Missionary Fellowship, Adelaide Place Baptist Church Glasgow
Contact Jean Watson 0141 882 1201

Saturday 3 January
Leicester Auxiliary New Year Prayer Meeting
Contact Theo Lambourne 0116 271 3633

Monday 12 January
Women's Missionary Fellowship, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, Glasgow
Contact Jean Watson 0141 882 1201

New church has missionary vision

A church in Wales that has just celebrated its first birthday has sent a cheque to BMS for £1,000 - representing its first-ever missionary giving.

Brackla Baptist Church is situated on one of the largest private housing estates in Europe. There was no church there when American Southern Baptist missionaries Bill and Lucy Pat Curl moved in five years ago, and drew together a group of people for worship in the local school. At its formal constitution last October, the membership stood at 12, but now it has a membership of 38, with around 70 attending services. Bill and Lucy Pat are now Associate ministers, the church having called a full-time pastor, a Welshman, Ian Howells as well as another Associate minister Seth Collier.

At the end of the first year the congregation felt it was appropriate to give away one-tenth of their income, and chose BMS as the recipient for this. Former BMS Co-ordinator Sue Wilson was invited to receive the cheque and speak about the Society.

Dear Audrey

No letters from the post bag this month but a reminder - Have you included World Mission in your Christmas programme?

It's not too late to start - here's a few ideas to get you thinking:

Find out ways Christians in other countries celebrate Christmas, get the young people to make a display. Could you introduce some of the customs into the church celebration? Or you could raise money for a special overseas project.

This is the time of the year when everyone is thinking about babies; get some facts about child birth from other countries, and decide what action your church could take about what you've discovered - the Nestle campaign is still a live issue. Look around your own community; is there a special need that your church could help financially or practically?

If you are following a theme make sure information about other countries - the good and the not so good - is included, so that all you do has a world dimension, (you'll find *mh* and missionaries' prayer letters good sources of information).

Arrange a telephone link with your Link-Up missionary. And if you can't make it for the Christmas service, how about doing something at the beginning of January?

Suggest a year's subscription to *mh* for a Christmas present; and raise money for the work of world mission through BMS by encouraging the buying of items from the BMS Christmas catalogue.

AND - Make sure you've signed and sent a Christmas card to your Link-Up missionary and any others you know at this time who are a long way from their families!

Green light

JANE ALDRICK VISITED STEVE GREEN TO ASK ABOUT HIS GO AHEAD ATTITUDE TO LIFE AND MISSION

A doctor for 23 years Steve Green has a BMS missionary heritage as long as your arm. Great great grandfather John Wenger served in India in the early 1800s; so did Steve's maternal grandparents, uncles and aunts on both sides, and his mother was born there. Small wonder that this fourth of five children, born into a hectic manse, had hypermetropia (long sight!)

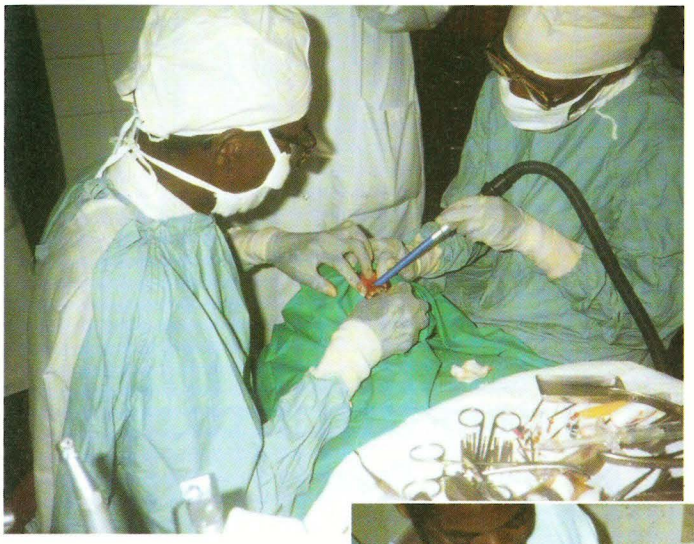
Steve, always sporty, musical and bright, quickly set his heart on becoming a doctor. In his late teens his 'call' began to crystallise on hearing Dr David Wilson, then a returning missionary from Zaire, speaking in Leeds.

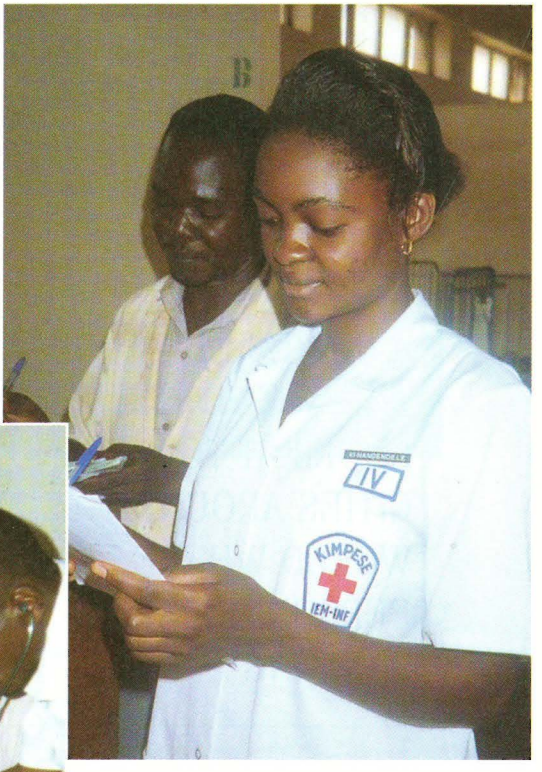
Medical training followed at St Andrew's and Dundee, with plenty of time for First-11 football, CU activities and meeting, later marrying Carolyn (past President of BMS). As a couple they are both highly individual and very much a team. Sons, Andrew and Barnabas, came later.

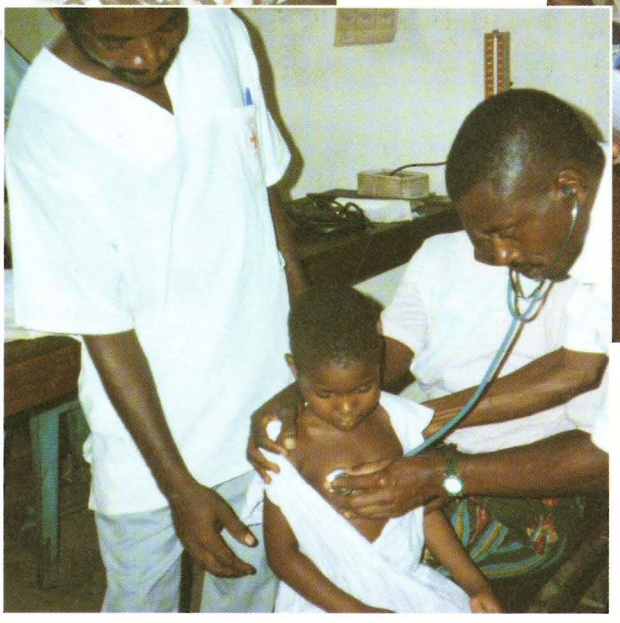
Steve Green quickly struck me as a Man with a Mission. No sooner had he married and qualified than he was champing at the bit to go overseas. Initially applying for a job in the Yemen; then, later to BMS, it seemed God was really checking his willingness to go anywhere, at any time. To leave exams, career progression, everything?

As it turned out Steve and his growing family stayed in the UK, he gained his MRCP and in 1979 the Greens re-approached BMS offering an open-ended call - anywhere.

Steve Green







Ongoing medical work in Kimpese:
Above - 4th year medical student
Top left - child's chest examination
Left - dentists at work

However, he does admit to secretly buying a 'Teach Yourself Punjabi' handbook!

Less than a year later Steve was standing out in the middle of Zaire's equatorial rain-forest, staring up into a sharp, starry sky, when he heard himself say: "This is what I've always wanted to do." Pimu had a tiny two-doctor hospital of 80 beds, and between them Adrian Hopkins, Steve and a trusty textbook (!) operated on whatever came through the door.

Twelve months later the Greens moved to Kimpese, 220 km south-west of Kinshasa, where they stayed for ten years. A town of 25,000 people whose large 400 bed hospital included staff from Canada, Sweden and the United States. Ideal for a gregarious couple! Mainly involved with paediatrics, community health, and teaching, Steve also undertook a four year mother and child AIDS research project funded by the Medical Research Council and another three and a half years major research project on paediatric salmonella. Together Steve and Carolyn set up and ran a French-speaking church for this spiritually aware, story-telling society.

Zaire's civil unrest began to seriously bite in September 1991. Soldiers were on the rampage. Colleagues were being evacuated but the Greens chose to stay, not sensing danger in Kimpese. However in October 1991 a truckload of soldiers passed the hospital. They were on the rampage. The sound of distant gunfire rang through the air and the missionaries were at risk. Each packed a bag that night facing up to the possibility that they might have to leave with nothing. Several days later Steve and Carolyn left their Kimpese home of ten years carrying only a suitcase.

Steve's gifts as a trainer and encourager bore fruit as both hospital and church were now well-equipped and trained to be run by nationals. It was time to go.

Returning to Leeds the Green family were re-united. Gradually Steve went back into NHS clinical medical work, and in May 1994 was appointed as Consultant Paediatrician in Bradford. Last year he also became head of Paediatric Services there.

Today life in the Green house is far from pedestrian! As the new Chairman of BMS' Medical Advisory Group Steve sees his role as "listening to what God has to say - a real privilege." He wants to think ahead - to think laterally as BMS, "a good, caring Society" faces tomorrow's tremendous medical needs.

Locally Steve and Carolyn head up the team that runs a Baptist church plant in the Leeds suburbs. For relaxation Steve sings tenor in Musici Jubilantes (a Christian orchestra and choir); Carolyn is doing a law degree, and their children? Andrew (23) is at St Andrew's studying Russian and French and Barnabas (21) is at Medical School in Newcastle.

So, the Green family baton is passed on. ●

Massy

A SERIES EDITED BY **JAN KENDALL** THAT LOOKS AT TOWNS AND CITIES AROUND THE WORLD WHERE BMS PERSONNEL ARE WORKING

BY **PHIL & ROSEMARY HALLIDAY**

History

Massy owes its name to a gentleman called Matius who built a house there in the Gallo Roman period. The house was referred to as "Maciacus" in the beginning, but the word evolved and changed and, in the course of time, became Massy.

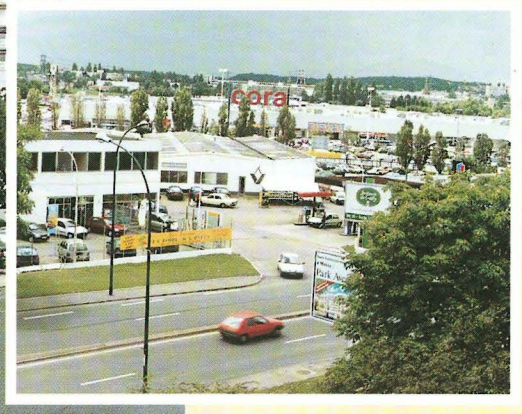
Situated an hour's carriage-ride away from Paris, Massy became a holiday resort in the 15th century for those who enjoyed the countryside. In the early 1900s, Massy was still a quiet village of only 1200 inhabitants, cultivating crops, fruit and vines. The development of the town began in 1958, following a government decision. Today Massy is the third largest town in its "department", Essonne, and the most prosperous.

Massy as it is now

Massy is an urban town of 48,000 inhabitants situated 10 miles south of the Paris ring road or "périphérique". With two RER train stations, a TGV station, a coach station and immediate access to the A6 and A10 motorways, Massy is home for a good number of people who work elsewhere in the Greater Paris area. The town has its own industrial estate, too, which includes a Honeywell Bull factory and a printing house where several national newspapers are printed. There are also three shopping complexes, a swimming pool, a sports centre, an urban park, a cinema, a theatre and an opera house.

Social aspects

The great majority of Massy's inhabitants, the "Massicois", live in apartment blocks. These structures, made of reinforced concrete, massively outnumber the few houses which remain from the beginning of the century.



Church life

Although there are many people in Massy who come from families which have been French for generations, many others come from a different ethnic background and have gained French nationality relatively recently. The names on the apartment blocks show that the residents come from Arab, African, Asian or different European backgrounds (Portuguese, Spanish, German, Italian and even British!). Currently 20 per cent of the "Massicois" are from an immigrant background.

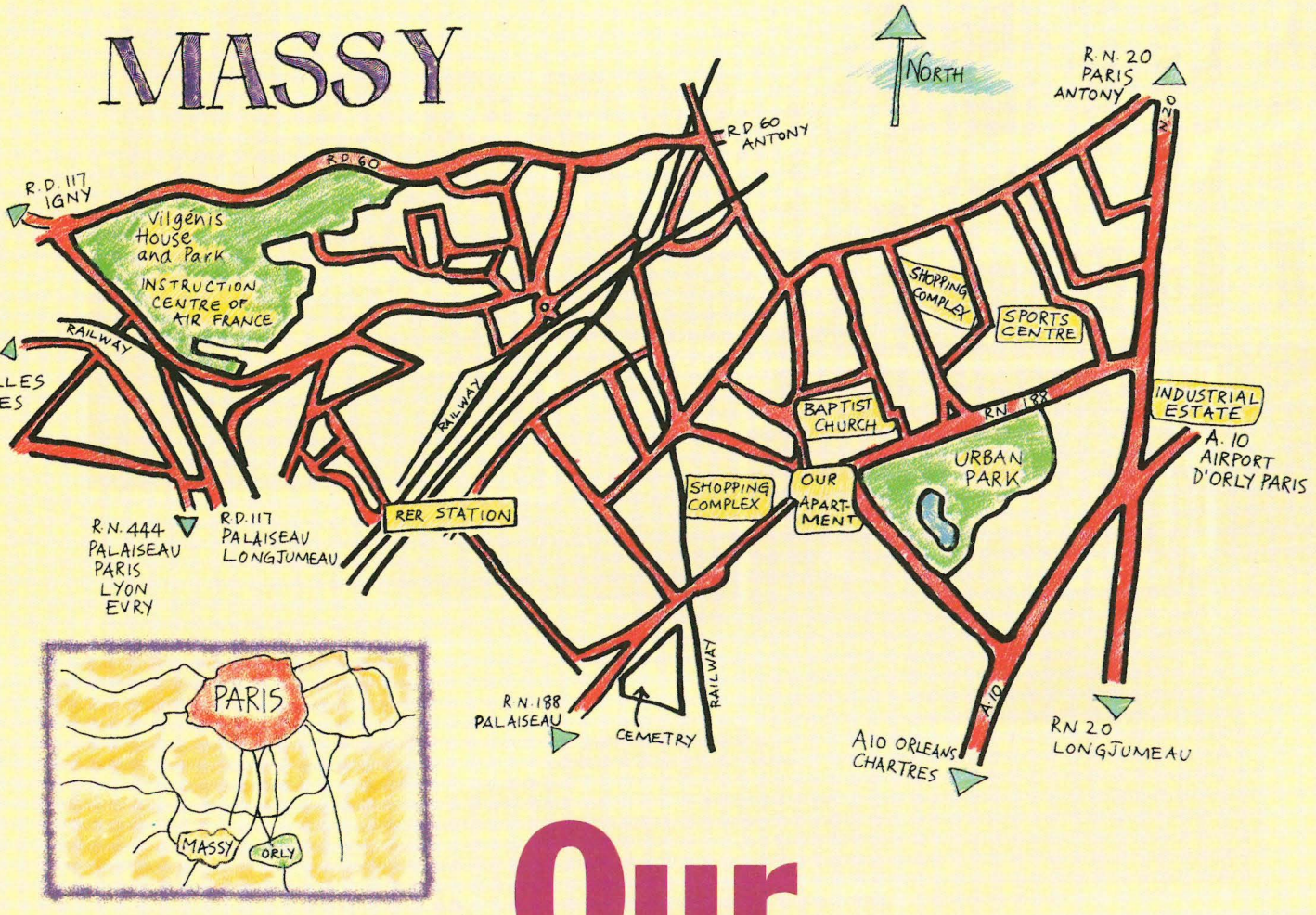
The social profile of Massy is very mixed, therefore, with a rich and diverse community life. The Massy Fair is an annual event in which more than 150 groups take part, including PTAs, charities, sports clubs of all types, choirs and orchestras, ethnic identity groups, language clubs, political parties and religious associations.

Within Massy there are two Catholic churches, a Baptist church, a Reformed church, a Lutheran church, an Independent Evangelical Reformed church and a synagogue. The only sect which has a foothold in the town is the "Rose-Croix", although the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and Moonies have a presence too. Massy also has a notable Muslim population.

The relationship between the Christian churches is much closer than in past years and indeed much closer than is usually the case in France. Over several years the Catholic, Reformed and Lutheran churches have organised a Bible study together; the Baptist and Independent Evangelical Reformed churches have cooperated on a regular basis and all six churches have taken part in occasional ecumenical events.

This year saw an acceleration in inter-church relationships with the organisation of a 15 day Bible exhibition. An extensive exhibition of Bibles, artifacts and posters was displayed in the Town Hall for two weeks. Alongside the main display, videos were shown, computer software was run and a large selection of books was provided. In addition, a series of seminars and concerts was organised to coincide with the period of the exhibition, including such speakers as the Bible translator Alfred Kuen. As one of the church leaders commented, it was "the biggest Christian event in our town since the Reformation!"

Continued on Page 22



Our town

Massy

Our Town

Massy Baptist Church

Massy Baptist Church was planted around 20 years ago on the initiative of the French "Home Mission". One of the French Baptist leaders had been invited to create a pastors' school for the ongoing training of the ministers of the French Baptist Federation and this school was situated in Massy. The church was born, therefore, in the chapel of this school's buildings.

In the 20 years which followed, Massy Baptist Church had a succession of ministers, but each was only able to help out on a part-time basis and for just a year or two. For example, one minister taught in Massy and helped in the church part-time; another was finishing a research degree in Paris and worked for the church half-time.

By 1995 the church had grown to a good nucleus of around 30 members. At this stage it was felt that Massy needed a full-time minister to consolidate and build up the work. The French Home Mission provides grants to churches which could not otherwise support a minister financially but it also benefits from partnerships with Baptist Unions of four other countries who provide "missionary" pastors to work in France.

So it came about that, in 1995, Phil Halliday was invited to be the first full-time minister of Massy Baptist Church. Two years on, Phil and Rosemary are on the point of gaining the honour of also being the longest serving pastoral couple that the church has had!

During the last two years, the church has welcomed 23 new members and has been able to change its status from a Home Mission "plant" to an independent "constituted" church. The goal is that the church will continue to develop and become sufficiently strong to financially support its own minister.

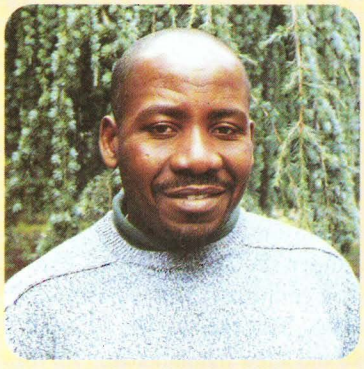
The Baptist church in Massy reflects the diverse mix of ethnic backgrounds which characterises the town. Although most of the congregation are now "French", there are 16 different countries of origin represented on a Sunday morning. Together God's people in Massy are trying to live out their faith in such a way that neighbours and friends can see it "close-up", ask questions and be drawn to Jesus.

Profile

Jules Bayang

"My name is Jules and I am 26 years old. I come originally from Cameroon, but I have been living in Massy since I was 19. I worked in the local library as a security man, but then the council moved me to the sports centre, which I much prefer. Now I have the opportunity to teach sport as well as looking after the security side of things.

I grew up in a Catholic family. This meant going through the catechism and being baptised. I even served the Mass. Our family was Catholic by tradition, however, and I did not have what you would call a "faith". I believed in God but I had not yet put my life into his hands.



Family difficulties, the death of my mother when I was very young and a generally tough life combined to make me hard, closed and unapproachable. That was why my family decided to send me to France. Once here, I cut myself off from the Church and for ten years, my life was quite wild and pretty awful. When I look back on those years now, I realise that God never left me. He had a plan for me and was protecting me from even worse mistakes.

God put someone on my path who helped me make a fresh start spiritually. This person invited me to their church. At first I was very reticent, but little by little, I became less resistant. The welcome which I received at church was also a decisive element for me. Before long I was taking part in Bible studies and understanding God's Word better. I received Jesus as my Saviour and was baptised on Easter Sunday. Now I can say that "nothing can separate me from the love of God".

Massy Baptist Church

First impressions

John & Sue Wilson

For John and Sue Wilson, like hundreds of other missionaries across the French-speaking world, the town of Massy is synonymous with the French language school run by the French Baptist Federation.

"Massy language school is in the middle of a dense population, but its magnificent garden sheltered by cedars, gives it not only its name ('Les Cèdres'), but also a feeling of calm in the midst of a jangle of foreign words. The teachers at the school helped us to unravel these sounds in our discovery of one of the world's most beautiful languages.

We spent four terms at 'Les Cèdres', allowing us to move from the present tense to the intricacies of the subjunctive! The daily classes and nightly homework prepared us not only to read and understand the spoken language, but also to express ourselves in conversation and to speak before an audience. With a nursery our newly-born child was well looked after and Sue was able to be with her whenever necessary. The daily time of worship and the common call to mission make the language school at Massy a very special place to learn how to lose your tongue and learn to speak again!" ●

THE DEMOCRATIC CHURCH

HOW A CHURCH PLANTED ITSELF BY OWEN CLARK

Beyond Mbankana you climb slowly up a winding road out of the Lufimi valley for a couple of miles. If you then take the yellow dirt road to the left across rolling grassland for several more, you begin a long descent to the River Uu (oo-oo), the mud houses of Kinzono just beyond largely hidden among the mango, avocado, nsafu, oil palm and other trees.

On our first visit we sat and talked with the frail old chief and his sons. On learning our business they said they already had a church, but no school or dispensary. They would gladly set aside land for these, and would we also build a brick house with a tin roof for the chief? Operating as we were in Peter and John mode, ie silver and gold had we none, we prayed with them and left, in any case not wanting to compete with the church already there.

Months later, when work was already well established at Nguene, Bwantaba and Mbankana, a note came from Papa Honoré, the chief's eldest son, inviting us to talk with a group of Kinzono people. They had decided, they said to start a fellowship, and they had chosen Papa Bernard to be their teacher. Situated on an alternative well-travelled road to Bandundu, the village was growing. The pastor of the existing church was present and encouraging.

Not entirely convinced, we put the onus on them to erect a pole-and palm-frond meeting place. Evangelist Mputu gave a word of encouragement from Scripture; they served us a meal, and we left with the promise to return a month later.

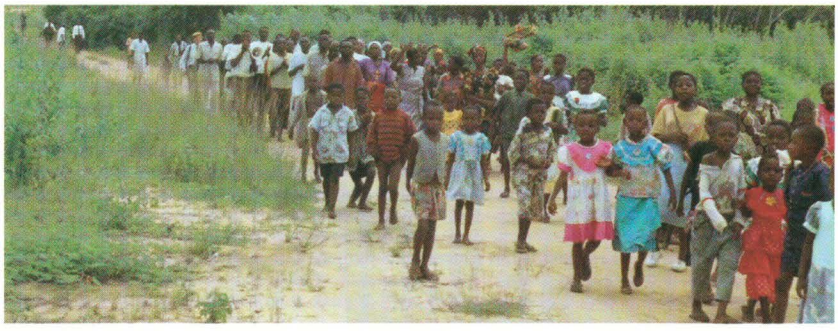
By our next visit they had cleared a site designated by the chief near the main road, stretching gently down to the river, their water supply. Though poles had been cut from the forest, they were still meeting in the shade of a tree. Their evident enthusiasm had to be taken seriously. This time we left a Lingala Bible and a few hymn books.

From then on there was no shirking the challenge. Mputu held a three day evangelistic campaign in front of Papa Honoré's house, and Honoré himself knelt with those who made a public profession of faith in Christ. A baptismal class was started. Honoré formally returned his second wife to her family, and joined the class. One of the team, Belesi, with Nkie from Bwantaba, stayed several days to visit from house to house.

On subsequent trips we took turns preaching at Kinzono, and Mputu gave time to teaching the baptismal candidates. People from Mbankana came along to encourage. Monduene, a teenager, and her singing group showed that young people could contribute to worship. Albert and Matondo walked from Mbankana to share the preaching. Relationships blossomed. On every occasion Mamas Jackie and Bernadette prepared fufu and pondu with whatever was in season - mushrooms, caterpillars or occasionally, when Honoré had been

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

A Fair Beginning



In the event carols were taught and sung, and the birth of Christ, not to townsfolk, but to villagers, celebrated.

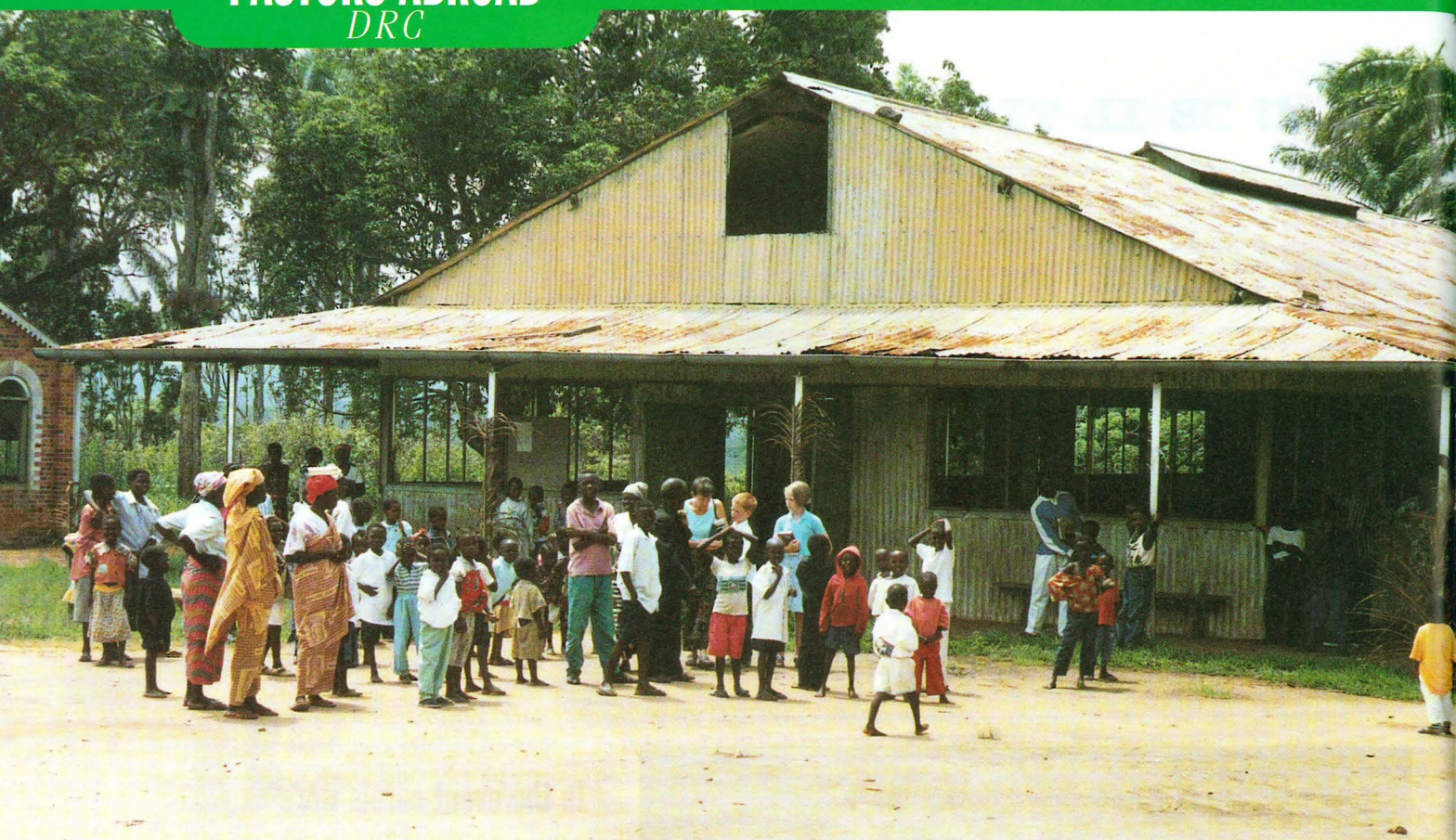
out with his gun, antelope.

When Advent came round we decided to spend Christmas at Mbankana, and baptise their candidates on Christmas morning. The week-end before would be spent in Kinzono, but their baptisms had best wait till January. In the event carols were taught and sung, and the birth of Christ, not to townsfolk, but to villagers, celebrated. Whereas the Mbankana women were able to prepare Christmas readings, it turned out that not one of the Kinzono women could read.

At the end of January, Clémentine, experienced in evangelisation through literacy, joined the team and started classes with the Kinzono women. Pastor Makiese from Kinkole came too. Interviewing the candidates he found six to be ready for baptism - Papa Honoré and two of his boys, Finzono and Nkwi, Lengelo and his wife Valentine, and a girl, Itedi.

At the end of the Sunday morning service the pastor from the other church and his members joined us to process, singing, down the road to the river, across the wooden bridge and round to the men's bathing spot, free at that time of day. Pastor Makiese explained the significance of the ceremony and baptised the six on profession of their faith. Still dripping, and still singing, they led the way back up to the village, before going off to change. Back in the now-completed church the nine founder members welcomed the newly baptised into the fellowship, and for the first time they communed, and we with them, at the Lord's table.

No doubt that little fellowship still had a long way to go to build up its faith and witness but, given our early hesitation about the whole venture, we felt, with a sense of gratitude, that they had made a fair beginning. ●



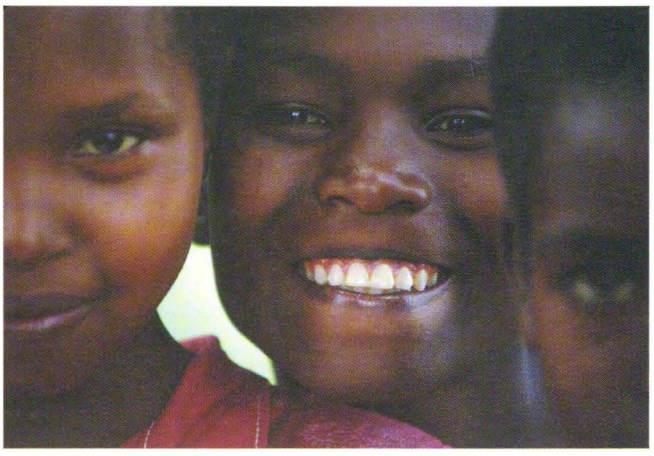
Keeping faith

PHILLIP HATTON
RETURNED TO DRC AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS

Reaching the door of the plane at Ndjili airport the tropical heat hit me again as if it were a wall. I was back in Zaire, as it was still called then, fourteen years after leaving. The sights, sounds and smells struck me, and with them the memories of my time as a teacher with the BMS at Ngombe Lutete, and the anticipation of what it would be like for the next six months, covering the Home Assignment of Stephen and Elizabeth Allford.

We arrived at a time when Zaire was suddenly in the news. Every bulletin seemed to have a report of rebels, refugees and all kinds of trouble. But the demonstrations in Kinshasa soon calmed down, and we started to renew friendships, make new friends and experience the country again.

Having experienced contact with the country over the years we knew that we should expect serious deterioration of the infrastructure, severe inflation and many demands for assistance from people. We also knew that the country was facing political instability; just how much, we did not appreciate in November.



But it was the things that were working which struck us even more forcefully than the deterioration. Because the dollar was freely available and in use there was a functioning economy for some at least. There was a telephone system which worked - we were able to phone, e-mail, and fax all over the world. Though many people were unpaid, those whose salaries were based on the dollar, sterling or the Belgian franc were more able to keep pace with inflation. With money, especially hard currency, one could buy whatever one liked, though many things were out of our range. The selection of French cheeses and pâtés, for example, was amazing. Petrol, which last time was often in short supply, and had to be queued for - perhaps for many hours - was freely available. At one point the local garage was giving away glasses to encourage sales!

In contrast for most people life was very hard. Medical services only worked because people came with medicines and equipment, and paid the doctors and nurses directly. The church was one of the few things which continued to function. Much of the education available was in church schools; the medical work of dispensaries and clinics was for many people the only chance they had of health care. The life in the church at ordinary parish level and in the lives of individual believers was a tremendous encouragement to me.

The main CBFZ churches had more than one service on Sundays to accommodate the numbers who attended. Kitega's French service began at 6.45am in order that the main Lingala service could follow. By the time I stood up to preach, the building was almost full of mainly young people, men and women. This experience was repeated at the other churches I was able to visit. At Lisala church they were in the middle of a building programme, including the provision of a new hall for the growing Sunday School - all provided by the giving of church members. At Itaga they had just collected sufficient funds, in dollars, to provide a new sound system. These were ordinary people, not rich benefactors, achieving this.

One huge difference I noticed was the open criticism of the President and his regime. Many times I heard the whole system condemned as evil and Mobutu blamed for what he had done to the country. Yet my strongest single memory is of one Christian, aware of what had been done to his country, who could still offer hope to Mobutu. How, he asked, could the President, so seriously ill from cancer, not repent and turn to God, who would forgive him!

I have called the country Zaire up to now, but of course this is no longer the case. The rebels were still in the east as Easter approached. From then on the rebels advanced and the future of the country dominated life. Each day there seemed to be news of some ex-patriates making the decision to return home. The embassies were making plans for evacuation and I attended meetings at the British Embassy. One morning there was a news report on the western media that all foreigners had been ordered to be killed and another time we heard that the rebels wanted us to leave Kinshasa. Kinshasa seemed to be full of the international press, television and radio. We had visits from the BBC, ITN, Radio 5, plus phone calls from local radio and newspapers.

Most people expected and feared a bout of extreme violence in the city. That the rebels would take over seemed inevitable. In this situation the church continued. Missionaries could pull out, but the mass of the people could not. So they prayed. It is my belief that the takeover when it came in early May was as peaceful as it was because the church kept its faith. I had preached on the stilling of the storm in this period; warning against the danger of thinking Jesus was asleep when times were hard. I believe that many Christians did not believe Jesus was asleep, and believed he would bring them through the storm. He has. To continue the illustration they now find themselves in uncharted waters in the DRC, with a new government and many problems, but they have their faith–which has been tried and tested. ●

The road from Kinshasa to Mbanza Ngungu

Phillip Hatton is minister of Wotton Baptist Church, Gloucestershire.

TAKE 2

Take Two – a resource for church leaders and workers

resources *for leaders*

When you're ill . . .

In many parts of the world when someone is ill, the first thing they have to do is see if they have enough money to pay the hospital bill. Poor people often have to take out loans from money lenders.

In Brazil patients queue from the early hours of the morning, sometimes all night just to book an appointment. They can also wait for nine to twelve months for an eye test or a dental appointment.

In many hospitals worldwide the patient is given a prescription and has to go out of the hospital and search in pharmacies and elsewhere to find everything they need - even for operations. They have to buy needles, syringes, sutures, scalpel blades, anaesthetics, gloves, gauze, cotton wool, antiseptic, premedication, catheters - the lot - and all the medicines.

In CAR and elsewhere normal patient care, washing, feeding etc is done by family members. This means if you have no-one to look after you, you cannot stay in hospital. Sometimes the hospital staff have to pay someone to feed a patient who comes to hospital on his or her own so that the patient will agree to stay.

CAR = Central African Republic

DRC = Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire

Some statistics from Nepal - one of the poorest countries in the world

- 100 children die daily from pneumonia, which is a readily treatable condition.
- Malnutrition, TB, and diarrhoea are common conditions which needlessly kill thousands each year.
- Tansen Hospital, Nepal is now one of the busiest hospitals in the country with 110,000 out patients seen annually, some travelling from all over western Nepal and northern India to receive care.

Did you know that...?

- Hospital and clinic entrances in Brazil are manned by armed guards to protect the staff - and especially the doctors - from angry, distressed relatives.
- Medicines from Eastern Europe and parts of Asia, particularly India and China, are flooding the market in DRC and CAR, and some are of dubious origin.

- The sign above Tansen Hospital, Nepal reads "We serve, Jesus heals."
- BMS doctor Adrian Hopkins reports that once when he was in Zaire a patient arrived at the clinic a day after he had left on a visit. She camped out at the mission for six months as she could not face the long walk back.

What being ill will cost you

Kimpese Hospital, DRC, has different categories of people for payment purposes eg A - Villager, B - Salaried person, C - Societies, D - Companies, E - the rich.
The cost of an operation would vary according to category.
An appendectomy would cost Cat. A the equivalent of £65 - £70, Cat. B £98 - £105, Cat. C £200, and Cat. D £325 - £350. This would include the bed and medication.

Costs at the Baptist Hospital, Fortaleza, Brazil

Private consultation	£36.00 - £40.00
Dressing a wound and/ or removal of sutures	£6.00
Injection	£4.00 - £5.00
Inhalation for asthma + oxygen	£5.50
Crepe bandage	£2.90 - £5.20
Plaster of Paris - for fractures	£2.80
Paracetamol (4 tablets)	£1.00
Antibiotics: ampicillin (4 tablets)	£19.40
Contraceptive pill	£2.50
HRT patches (18)	£13.00
Asthma inhaler	£6.95
Diabonese for diabetics (100 tablets)	£9.40
Tranquillisers	£3.00 - £5.00

Apart from tranquillisers, all the other items can be bought without prescription. Millions of Brazilians, who do not have time to queue for a doctor buy their remedies over the counter.

The cost for cataract surgery in CAR is US $20, inclusive of medicines and glasses. This is half the basic minimum wage for someone in work, which is however, rare. $20 represents up to a quarter of the sum many get paid for their annual cash crop (cotton or coffee).

Out-patients in Tansen Hospital, Nepal pay the equivalent of £1.90 for an examination, investigations and treatment. In-patients pay only £3.50 on average for their basic hospital care.

Contributed by:
Andrew Furber, Nepal
Sue Headlam, Bangladesh
Adrian Hopkins, CAR
Gwen Hunter, DRC
Mary Parsons, Brazil

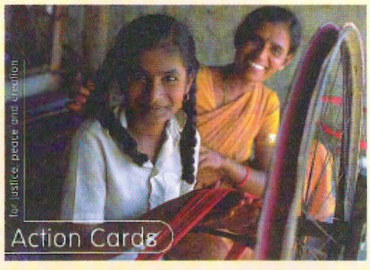
COUNTRY	MATERNAL MORTALITY (PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS) 1980 -91	AVERAGE No. CHILDREN PER WOMAN	DOCTOR/ PEOPLE RATIO	UNDER FIVE MORTALITY PER 1,000
Albania	n/a	2.8	n/a	31
Angola	n/a	7.2	1:17,750	292
Bangladesh	600	4.8	1:6,890	133
Belgium	3	1.6	1:310	10
Brazil	200	2.9	1:1,080	67
CAR	600	6.2	1:25,890	180
China	95	2.4	1:1,191	42
D.R. Congo	800	6.7	1:13,540	180
El Salvador	n/a	4.2	1:2,830	67
France	9	1.8	1:350	9
Guinea	800	7.0	1:46,420	234
India	460	4.0	1:2,460	126
Italy	4	1.3	1:210	10
Jamaica	120	2.5	1:2,040	19
Myanmar	460	4.3	1:12,900	117
Nepal	830	5.6	1:16,830	147
Portugal	10	1.5	1:490	12
Sri Lanka	80	2.5	1:5,520	21
Thailand	50	2.3	1:4,360	33
UK	8	1.9	1:700	9
Zimbabwe	n/a	5.5	1:7,110	88

(Third World Guide pub. Instituto del Tercer Mundo)

Childbirth

- "When Andrea asked the local dentist if he wanted a boy or a girl, he replied that he would be happy to still have a wife." (Mark Hotchkin, Guinea, West Africa)
- In Nepal around 5,000 women die every year as the result of the complications of pregnancy - more than 60 times the maternal mortality rate of the UK.
- In one government hospital in the Central African Republic the death rate after caesarean section has been almost 100 per cent.
- Estimates for 1996 show that the number of women worldwide who die each year in pregnancy and childbirth is around 600,000 - that is 1,600 every day.
  - ➤ Over 200,000 die of haemorrhaging.
  - ➤ 100,000 die of sepsis, where the mother's bloodstream is poisoned by a rising infection from an unhealed uterus or from retained pieces of placenta, causing fever, hallucinations and extreme pain.
  - ➤ 75,000 die from attempting to abort their pregnancy themselves - around 50,000 women and girls attempt this every day, by taking drugs, submitting to violent massage, or inserting a sharp object such as a straightened coat hanger, knitting needle or sharpened stick through the vagina into the uterus.
  - ➤ 75,000 die with brain and kidney damage through eclampsia, a dangerous condition that arises in late pregnancy.
  - ➤ 40,000 die of obstructed labour.

POST IT!



Something new to help our memory! Little stickers varying in size, but usually yellow. It is the stickability that counts. Stick it on the fridge, the dressing table, the garage door, the bench or the office desk - and you remember. Sometimes it's a reminder to remember a birthday or anniversary, make a telephone call, send a present. By buying a set of twelve colour picture postcards - the Action cards -and sending one off each month, you will be bringing encouragement to people in different parts of the world. It's only a small effort, but it can bring a large response. You may even receive a reply!

In this way you will be taking action on issues like fair trade, poverty, the environment, refugees, child labour, debt and development.

For details phone Peter Briggs on 0121 550 5186, or speak to your Missionary Secretary. He/she will already have been sent details about them.

To order write to Methodist Publishing House, 20 Ivatt Way, Peterborough, PE3 7PG. Tel 01733 332202.

Action cards are produced under the auspices of BMS, BUGB, Christians Aware, Church of Scotland, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church.

ACTION CARD

PHOTO: SEAN SPRAGUE/PANOS PICTURES

Karen Refugees

These Karen (pronounced Ka - ren, with the emphasis on the 'ren') children pictured on this month's card are happy now they have found safety and peace in a refugee camp in Thailand. But a lot of other Karen children are suffering greatly because in their homeland of Myanmar (Burma) many have seen their homes destroyed and members of their families killed when the Burmese soldiers (SLORC) attacked their area.

They have been forced to run away in fear from Burma, to find refuge in Thailand. Earlier this year the list of atrocities against the Karen people on the Thai border was long and made uncomfortable reading. Often abducted from their homes, both men and women have been forced to act as porters, carrying weapons and supplies for the SLORC troops. They were fed five spoonfuls of rice morning and evening. If they could not keep up the expected pace, they would be beaten, tortured and murdered. The female porters would often be raped, and if they resisted, they were often mutilated or killed. Villages have been burned down time and again.

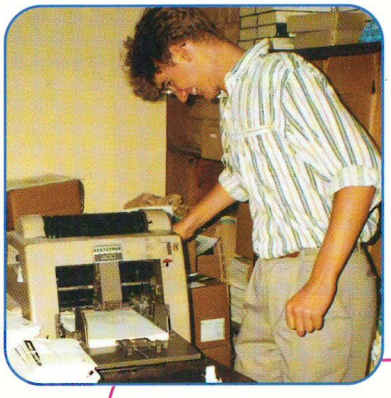
The people live in constant fear. At time of writing (end of September) the situation is fairly calm because it is the monsoon season. But all in all 120,000 people are living in these refugee camps, and the number is growing.

Send this month's Action Card to General Than Shwe, Chairman, State Law and Order Restoration Council, Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road, Yangon, Union of Myanmar, beginning your message "Dear General". Appeal to the Myanmar authorities to take immediate steps to ensure the Burmese army does not engage in further deliberate and unlawful killings, torture and ill-treatment against civilians, including members of ethnic minorities.

TAKE 2

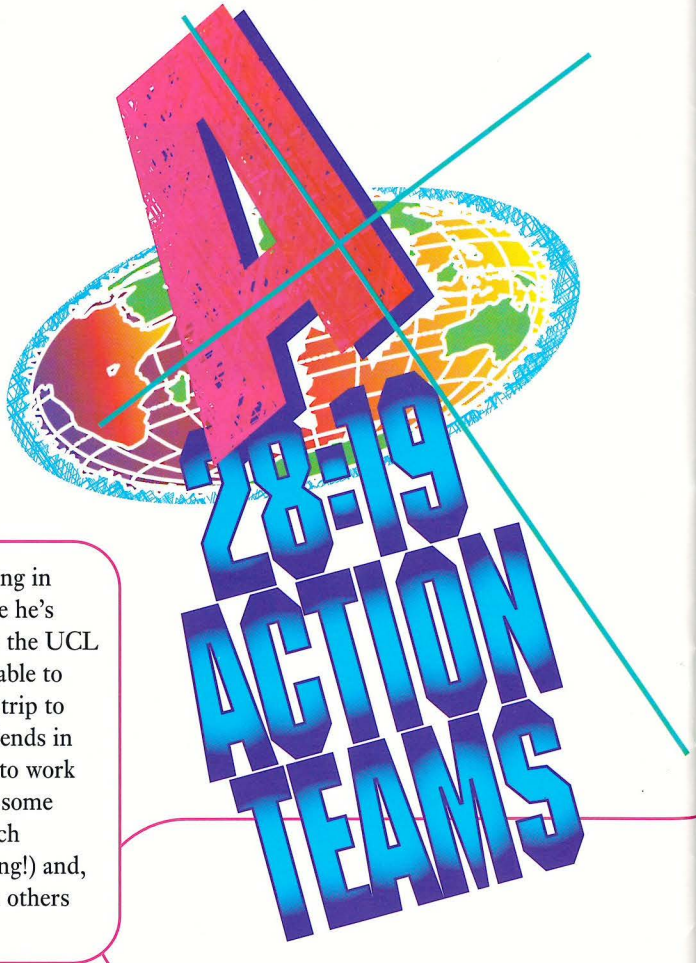
Action Teamers: where are they now?

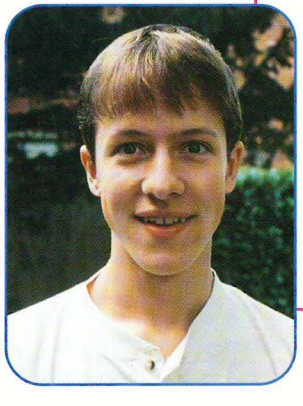
JENNY BARRETT INVESTIGATES



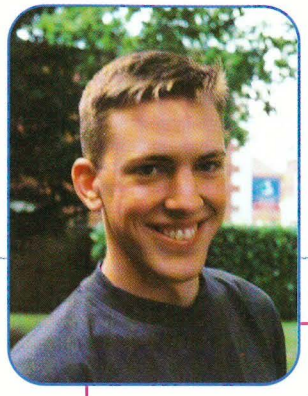
Julian Sugg was part of the first Action Team.

"Six years ago," he said, " I returned from six months in Jamaica and started at medical school in London. I've reached the stage where I've lost the cocoon of studenthood and decisions have to be made. Now it's either a dispensary in Peru or plastic surgery in LA. 28:19 did give me an inkling of the joys and dilemmas of overseas work, and I'll certainly spend some time abroad (probably working in community health care). I'm excited about Britain though. There is a new hope for change (Swampy is one of my heroes) and I'd like to be a part of what Christians can offer and learn from the DIY culture of direct action for social change. People in tree houses need doctors too!"





Oliver Campbell Smith rang in from University College London, where he's studying Geography and heading up the UCL Jazz Society. This summer he was able to accompany his father on a business trip to the Ukraine and visit missionary friends in Ethiopia. Eventually, Oliver hopes to work with refugees, either for the UN or some other agency, using his French (much improved during his time in Morsang!) and, like the Action Team, working with others towards a common goal.

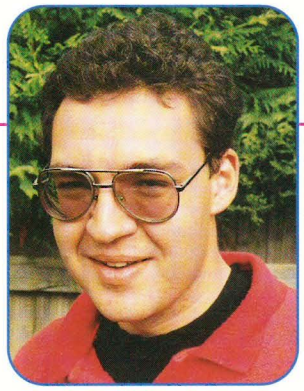


The 28:19 Action Team members featured are:
Julian Sugg went to Jamaica (90/91)
Oliver Campbell Smith went to Morsang, France (95/96)
Hugh Clements-Jewery went to Albania (95/96)
Peter Hunt and Rachel Hicks went to Zimbabwe (93/94)

Hugh Clements-Jewery found he came down from the high of 28:19 with a bump: "It was hard having to deal with the more mundane things at home. .. I was definitely a bit snowed under initially but I think that the tough times that I had when I was in Albania helped and taught me to rely on God completely in whatever I was doing".

Now captain of his Oxford college's football team, Hugh deeply appreciates the support he gets from the college Christian Union. He is studying physiology and recalls: "I remember someone praying for me when I was in Albania that in studying this, God would really open my eyes to how wonderfully he has created us. And that is definitely my experience over the last year. I have developed a passion for physiology and I wouldn't do anything else at the moment!"

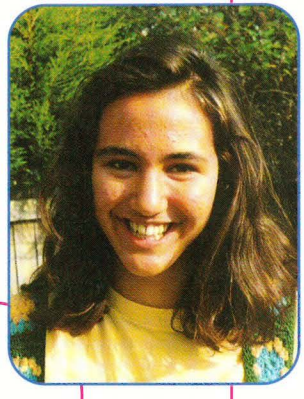
And of the future? "Several events over the last year have added to what occurred in Albania and I feel strongly aware of a call to the Baptist ministry."



Fitting back into your church can be a bit daunting after the high-octane experience of Action Team. But very often the way forward emerges from what you've done and learned as a team member.

When **Peter Hunt** addressed a congregation of 500 in the Zimbabwean city of Mkoba, Pastor Moyo (then the President of the Zimbabwe Baptist Convention) urged him to consider training for the ministry. In response, Peter enrolled with the Baptist Union Christian Training Programme (CTP) and accepted the post of Church Secretary - a role he had earlier considered and dismissed.

"Although I felt I had the practical skills to do the job some four years ago, I believe that God wanted me to wait a while to gain more experience. Going to Zimbabwe gave me that experience, and I thank God time and time again that he gave me the opportunity to go and serve him there. I still maintain that I learned more in Zimbabwe than I gave."



His Action Team colleague **Rachel Hicks** would agree:

"For me personally, God used these six months working with dynamic and vibrant African churches to open my eyes to the immense spiritual needs here in Europe! I remember walking through the bush one day outside a small village called Goromonzi: God gave me an almost overwhelming sense of the contrast between the light and life I had seen in Africa and the darkness in countries like France and Belgium. That was the first moment I remember seriously considering whether God might be asking me to serve him in one of these places..."After all" I wondered, "surely Africa is the place for missionaries!"

Throughout the last three years I've been learning more about the visions and struggles of God's people in France, and exploring the possibility of putting those ideas which came into my head in the Zimbabwean bush into action. In September I came to Paris to work with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES), who are involved in evangelism and discipleship among the 60,000-strong student population of France's capital. I feel so grateful and excited when I look back over the last four years and can see God's hand leading, directing and opening doors. I'm so glad that the God who is God in Zimbabwe and who showed us his power there is God in France too!"

Prayer *focus*

News from BMS colleagues and partners around the world to complement the BMS Prayer Guide

Around the world

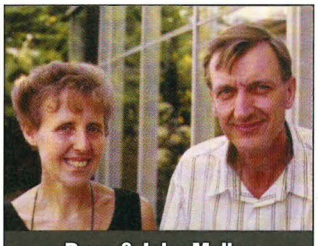
AFRICA

Simon and Karen Collins
ANGOLA

"The plea from everyone is for peace - then they can get on with rebuilding their lives and their country. There is a real danger at the moment of war breaking out again." Derek Rumbol

Please pray for

- Simon and Karen Collins, BMS missionaries who've experienced a long and exasperating delay waiting for visas to begin their ministry in Angola.



Rena & John Mellor
DRC

"The country is mainly peaceful at the moment, but Kabila has a tremendous task on his hands to rebuild the civil service, the economy, roads and transport systems." Derek Rumbol

John & Rena Mellor report that, although government troops patrol at night, armed gangs still go looting. Best thing is to keep a whistle by your bed to alert neighbours in case of trouble - they blow *their* whistles and soon the cacophony will bring the soldiers running!

However, the same soldiers have developed a habit of commandeering vehicles and homes belonging not just to those linked to the Mobutu regime, but to missionaries as well. The value of money has decreased by a third making food and other provisions a luxury for many.

Please pray for

- the Church of Christ of DRC - the umbrella organisation linking Protestant churches in DRC with a key role in their dealings with the Government
- the International Protestant Church, Kinshasa, its Baptist minister, Revd Bryan Pinches and his wife Eve. IPC is the main English-speaking congregation in the capital, attracting influential business and diplomatic personnel from the expatriate community.
- Pastor Nduku and the three other hospital chaplains supported by IPC - that resources will continue to be found to pay for medicines patients couldn't otherwise afford and for rice, sugar, milk and soap to make their lives more comfortable.

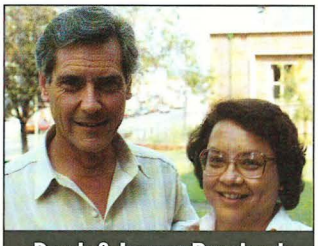
AMERICAS

Margaret Swires
BRAZIL

Orival is one pastor with energy and enthusiasm to spare. BMS Margaret Swires can only hope this recent arrival in Satellite City doesn't burn out! And there's plenty for him to do. At their last joint service, just two congregations produced 29 candidates for baptism: Pitimbu is without a minister but has US evangelist Eddie at the helm, while the community at Ponta Negra (led by Pastor Lupercio) struggles to refurbish their shell of a church so they won't always have to meet on the street.

Please pray for

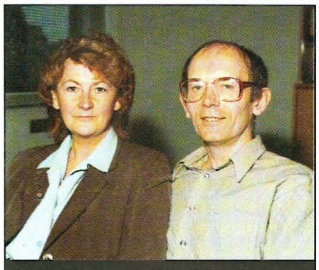
- Orival, his wife and four children, and the three deacons supporting them: Paulo, Romano and Miriam.
- Margaret as she seeks to revitalise the mission programme for Satellite City
- Mike & Daveen Wilson in Trapia with their new believer's classes (one for adults, another for teenagers)
- Social work initiatives following the March symposium and questionnaire - meeting strategic needs



Derek & Joanna Punchard
BRAZIL

After training for the ministry at Spurgeons College, Derek served as pastor at Drummond Road Baptist Church in Bermondsey. For almost 30 years now, he and Joanna have lived and worked in the Brazilian state of Paraná, first in Paranavai/Foz do Igacu and now in Curitiba. Formerly State Director of Evangelism and Coordinator of the Curitiba Baptist Association, Derek is now BMS Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean. Their three adult children, Ruth, John and Susan, are all married to Brazilian nationals and, with their young families, are active members of the local church in Curitiba.

ASIA



Irene & Alex Black
THAILAND

In 1957, local church groups established a school and hostel in Chiang Rai, a town in northernThailand.

In 1997, Alex & Irene Black have moved into the Mission House across the road from the school. As well as teaching English to 10-15 year olds, the Blacks are starting an evening class for 32 of the staff.

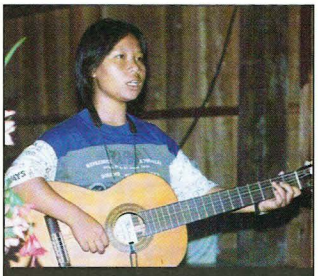
The "Sahasartsuksa" or "united village" school and hostel is a unique Christian venture bringing together children from nine hill tribes.

Apart from Christianity in the place of Buddhism, the school sticks to the Thai national curriculum. The Government pays for their basic education, but for their hostel fees most children depend on sponsorship through Compassion International.

Many staff and pupils attend the nearby Karen Baptist Church which has made Alex & Irene so welcome - they arrived just in time for the inauguration of a new young pastor, a new diaconate and a new baptistry.

Please pray for

- Alex & Irene as they find their feet in a new community
- school finances - that government funding and sponsorship will meet the rising costs
- fresh vision for the Baptist church in Chiang Rai and its young minister
- fourteen girls baptised after a Luis Palau crusade in Chiang Mai - that they find the spiritual nurture they need.



Yu Ler Bay
THAILAND

November and early December is harvest time in Thailand. Jacqui Wells and Yu Ler Bay will again join Karen women as they work in teams to garner the rice so carefully planted out earlier in the year.

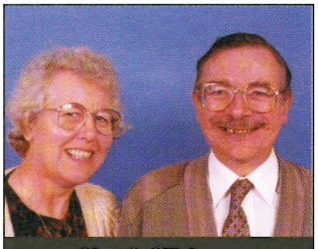
BMS missionary Jacqui Wells works among the Karen women of the region. The Christian New Life Centre in Chiang Mai is a shelter for 151 hilltribe girls at risk of being sold into prostitution or already rescued from brothels. Founded in 1987 by US Baptist missionaries, the Centre is now run by Revd Lauren Bethel. Major initiatives include a health project aimed at preventing the spread of AIDS among tribal people, and the House of Love, a hospice for young women dying of AIDS.

Please pray for

- Jacqui as she prepares to return to the UK next year for five months' home assignment
- The work of the New Life Centre, a place of safety and companionship for vulnerable women
- Yu Ler Bay who longs for a scholarship to study at Bible School - Jacqui will need a new co-worker if she succeeds!
- Plans for the latest Karen Bible study book - the fifth in a series, this will be the first prepared by Karen women themselves.

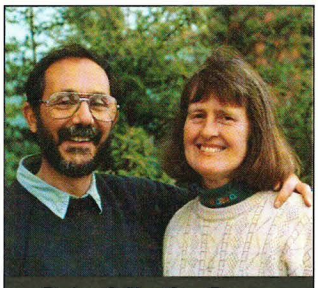
EUROPE

In Tirana, recent troubles have done much to sort the spiritual wheat from the chaff: though Glyn & Gill Jones may have noticed shifts in attendance at Kisha I Liri ("Freedom Fellowship") and other churches, the underlying strength and vitality remains.



Glyn & Gill Jones
ALBANIA

But Christians are not immune to danger. Ryder & Heather Rogers report that the niece of a church member in Bregu-i-Lumit has become one of the many young Albanian women abducted and sold into prostitution in Italy. Another Christian girl, Marjeta, who used to attend the Rogers' school has also gone to seek her fortune there.



Ryder & Heather Rogers
ALBANIA

Please pray for

- the missing girls and their distraught families
- moves by the authorities in Italy and Greece to stop the trade in human lives; in the words of Heather Rogers,

Prayer focus

Around the world

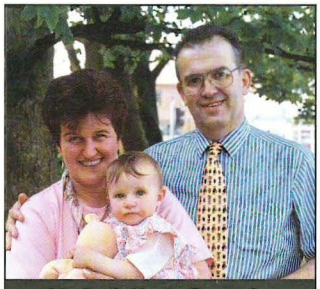
"pray that men will value justice more than money - that's a God-sized prayer!"
- Albanian pastors, music leaders etc as they rise to the challenges ahead

Stuart & Joyce Filby
BELGIUM

Conversions, baptisms and healings are attracting a lot of attention in a suburb of Ostende, Belgium. A summer of barbeques and social gatherings has culminated in an outdoor service to give thanks to God for the life of a new baby. But the subsequent increase in attendance at their Sunday and Wednesday meetings means Stuart & Joyce Filby are running out of space! Thirty each Sunday plus a dozen children and the occasional pet is too much for their living room. The beach is always an option in summer - but what about those long Belgian winters? Rather than evict their BMS friends, the Filbys' growing church has found a building for sale which would be big enough for several hundred worshippers - not to mention Sunday school and youth work!

Please pray for
- wisdom and finance to meet the need for a meeting place
- outreach beyond the church eg the new leaflet designed to appeal to local people with a Catholic background.
- resources for increased leadership and pastoral needs as the Christian community grows.
- many Christians in Ostende under pressure to work on Sunday and miss vital fellowship.
- health and safety for the Filbys in their well-used home.

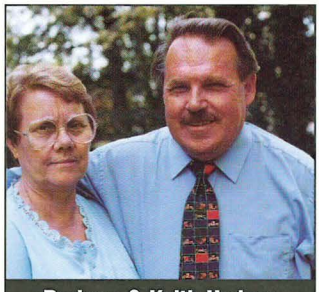
Just twice the size of Wales (if you include Madeira and the Azores), Portugal is a predominantly Roman Catholic country with some 60 Baptist churches, most with less than 100 members.



Linda & Kevin Donaghy
PORTUGAL

"Divided by a common language": Kevin & Linda Donaghy are currently in Lisbon, unlearning the Portuguese dialect they picked up as BMS missionaries in Brazil so that Portuguese people can understand them! The potential for linguistic accidents is great: for example, in Brazil the word for bathroom is "banheiro". Ask someone on the streets of Lisbon where the nearest "banheiro" is, and they'll think you're looking for a lifeguard!

In August, Keith & Barbara Hodges joined the BMS community in Portugal, teaching Old Testament studies ten miles west of Lisbon in Queluz. Although a fraction of the size of the Baptist Seminary in Curitiba (the Hodges' former home in Brazil), the one in Queluz coordinates teaching in other parts of Portugal. And there is much work to be done in the churches themselves.



Barbara & Keith Hodges
PORTUGAL

Please pray for
- the Donaghys and the Hodges as they adapt to a new culture.
- the laying of a good foundation for future BMS work in Portugal - "solid and trustworthy bridges of friendship and fellowship ... so that others may follow and take up the continuing work for Jesus".
- The 28:19 Action Team there for six months to help and learn.

Checkout

Arrivals November
Tim and Rosimar Deller from Goiânia
Stan and Maureen Porter from São Paulo
Jill Igoe from Harare
Steve and Pam Seymour from Harare

Arrivals December
Phil Igoe from Harare
David and Cath McLellan from Kathmandu
Mark and Suzana Greenwood from Fortaleza

Departures
None

Overseas visits
Alistair Brown to Thailand and Kathmandu
Jim Clarke to Brazil

Charity Commission
Charity: Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo Medical Fund (formerly Angola Hospital Fund)
Scheme for the regulation of the Charity
Reference: AS/27959/CD(T)
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at the Baptist Missionary Society, P O Box 49, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8XA, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL quoting the above reference.
Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

Travel Tales

Questions, questions . . .

ILLUSRATION SARAH PRENTICE

JOHN PASSMORE

John Passmore is the BMS Europe Representative and was a missionary in Bangladesh for ten years.

As this is my last bit for ***mh*** I leave you with two questions, one here and the other at the end.

Q1. Which British politician said?

"I hope to see a Europe where men and women of every country will think as much of being European as of belonging to their native land and wherever they go in this wide domain will truly feel 'here I am at home'."

If you need more help, he (so it wasn't Maggie) went on to say, " We must build a kind of United States of Europe. In this way only will hundreds of millions of toilers be able to regain the simple joys and hopes which make life worth living."

Answered Prayer?

While visiting missionaries in my current role, as well as spending time chatting in their homes, I usually like to see them 'in action' if possible. On this occasion the couple I was staying with told me that their usual mid week meeting had been called and they were all planning to go to a nearby church where there was to be an evangelistic event. Off we went to hear this singer/ evangelist and although this was France, so not mud roads, rickety bridges or unreliable ferries to negotiate in overloaded Land Rovers, unfortunately we arrived at the church a little late.

There were no seats left where we could sit together so we went our separate ways and settled down for the next hour or so of song and persuasive testimony. There was a 'come to the front' type appeal at the end but no one responded. The meeting ended and those who knew each other mingled in the way Christians do at such meetings.

In some ways the atmosphere was, not altogether surprisingly, a little flat. Imagine, therefore, the reaction of the person I had gone with when someone came up them to tell them how wonderfully God had answered their prayers that night. Surprise would be an understatement. When there had been no visible response to the well presented Gospel message, just what was his prayer and how had it been answered?

He explained. When he looked around at the beginning of the meeting he realised that he knew all of the people present. They were all regular attenders of local churches and committed Christians and this was supposed to be an event to reach non believers. He prayed, 'Lord bring in someone tonight who needs to hear the Gospel.' No one came. He prayed again but this time more fervently, 'Lord you know who needs to be saved, there's a bar across the road, bring in one of those drunkards and challenge them with the message.'

Then the miracle happened. Someone he had never seen before came and sat next to him. He knew this person was challenged because he seemed to be fidgeting all the way through and so was sure this was the answer to his prayer.

When asked who this stranger was, he pointed, yes you've guessed, straight at me. I was the only person there he didn't know. I don't think he had any right to say that prayer. I make no comment about some of his other assumptions but my second question is this:

Q2 How many times do we ask God to do the very things he's entrusted to us!?

Editor's Note: Thanks to John for his making us think and making us laugh over the years! Gerry Myhill will be taking over in the New Year.

New for 1997

This year BMS has four new and exclusive designs. Each card has a seasonal greeting and Scripture text.

Each pack contains 10 cards

Every time you place an order you help support the vital work of BMS. So this Christmas support BMS and its work by buying BMS cards and calendars. Profits from these goods will be used to help the general work of BMS - making Jesus known worldwide.

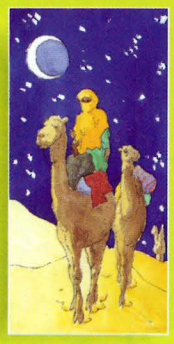
Christmas cards

Glory to God

A modern collage designed by Sarah Prentice.

Size: 147mm x 105mm.

£1.85 per pack



Camel

Illustration by Oliver Poole.

Size: 207mm x 103mm.

£1.95 per pack

Shepherds

Illustration by Sarah Prentice. Available with inside text in English or Welsh.

Size: 207mm x 103mm.

£1.95 per pack

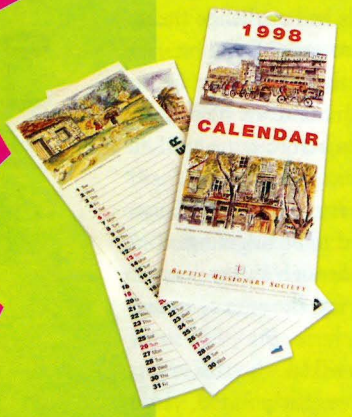
Peace

Specially commissioned for BMS, this calligraphic embroidery has been created and stitched by Gail Lawther.

Size: 207mm x 103mm

£1.95 per pack

Calendars



Wall mounted calendar

Beautifully illustrated by Sarah Prentice, each month comes with a watercolour of urban or rural life in countries where BMS is working, plus space to fill in line by line all your activities and engagements. It will neatly hang on your kitchen or office wall. Comes with envelope if you wish to send it to a friend.

Size: 146 x 368mm.

£2.95

Desk top calendar

Eye-catching and creatively designed, this calendar will sit proudly on your desk. See each month at a glance along with photographs of the strategic work BMS is involved in.

Size: (flat) 105 x 200mm.

£2.95

*Please photocopy coupon if you do not wish to cut into your **mb** magazine*

Order Form

Product	£ price	Quantity	Total
1997 Christmas cards			
Glory to God	1.85		
Shepherds (English)	1.95		
Shepherds (Welsh)	1.95		
Camel	1.95		
Peace	1.95		
Wall mounted calendar	2.95		
Desk top calendar	2.95		
Please add postage and packing for orders under £30			1.50
Donation to BMS work			
Total cost			

Send your order to:

Christmas Cards and Gifts,
Baptist Missionary Society,
PO Box 49,
Didcot,
Oxon, OX11 8XA

or phone Rob Vaines on 01235 512077

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel no

Church

Registered charity no. 233782. VAT included in above prices. VAT reg. No. 232 5237 89

The content of this magazine is © BMS World Mission.

This magazine is digitised by the John Smyth Library of the International Baptist Theological Study Centre Amsterdam (IBTS Centre). BMS World Mission has authorised IBTS Centre to make this file available in open access for research purposes.

Unauthorised reproduction is not allowed. Permission to publish (parts of) the content of this magazine elsewhere must be obtained in written from:

BMS World Mission
PO Box 49, 129 Broadway
Didcot, Oxfordshire
United Kingdom
OX11 8XA

01235 517700
info@bmsworldmission.org